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OF THE

STATE BOARD OF CHARITIES

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REPORT

OF THE

Institutions Conducting Charitable and
Reform Work in the Eighth
Judicial District.

BY

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R E P O R T .

To the State Board of Charities :

For the purpose of informing myself by personal observation upon the condition and management of the institutions conducting charitable and reform work in the counties of Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans and Wyoming, which comprise the eighth judicial district, I have visited all of them one or more times during the past year, and herewith submit my report thereon, excepting the following institutions: The Le Couteulx St. Mary's Institution for the Improved Instruction of Deaf-mutes in the city of Buffalo; the Western House of Refuge for Women, Albion; the Buffalo State Hospital; and the Providence Lunatic Asylum, Buffalo.

The first of these institutions is included in the report of the committee on the deaf; the second, in the report of the committee on reformatories; and extended information respecting the last two named may be found in the report of the Lunacy Commission.

All the visits were made without previous notification to officials in charge of the institutions visited.

Such statistics as are included in this report, unless otherwise expressly stated, are for the year ending September 30, 1893.

Upon the eight county-houses in the eighth judicial district I submitted a special report on the tenth of October last.

MISCELLANEOUS INSTITUTIONS.

The Asylum of Our Lady of Refuge.

(Best street, Buffalo.)

This institution, sometimes designated as the House of the Good Shepherd, was founded in 1855 by the Roman Catholic order of the Sisters of Our Lady of Refuge, and incorporated in 1866,

under the general law. The objects aimed at are the reformation of fallen women, of such idle and vicious girls as may be committed to the custody of the Society for the Protection of Destitute Roman Catholic Children, and of a class of offending women who, in the discretion of the magistrate, are committed here instead of to the Erie County Penitentiary. The institution is also designed to afford a temporary shelter for young girls exposed to temptation and to aid them in procuring suitable employment. Its principal efforts are directed towards the reclamation of girls who have broken loose from wholesome restraint and entered upon a downward course, but who are penitent and place themselves voluntarily under protection.

The buildings are of stone, mainly of three stories in height. They are situated within an inclosure, and have a capacity for about 300 inmates. They are supplied with city water and are connected with the city sewers. Kerosene is used for lighting. A hot-water system was being introduced at the time of my visit, at a cost of \$14,000. The buildings have outside fire-escapes.

Connected with the institution are fifty-six sisters, including "candidates," all of whom serve more or less in different ways in the prosecution of the work. Sister Mary Agnes holds the office of sister superior.

The institution was visited September eighth. It then contained 155 inmates, thirty-one of whom, including eleven children, were committed by the courts. Sister Mary Agnes did not know the precise number of children that were in the institution, but she thought there were about forty. Their ages ranged from 6 to 16 years. Among them were observed eight Italians. Some of the children are sent in by the superintendent of the poor. Three were committed from other counties — two from Niagara and one from Monroe. The children are not sent in for any definite period, while such of the adults as are committed are sentenced for terms of from thirty days to six months. The number received during the year was ninety-five. There were returned to parents or guardians, forty-nine; transferred to other institutions, two; otherwise discharged, twenty-one; and four died.

The industries pursued are laundrying for private customers and sewing. The principal business is laundrying, in which department girls that are sentenced work with the others.

The school is not under the Department of Public Instruction, nor is it required that teachers shall be examined by the department.

In the chapel were a number of postulants at prayer. The chapel is so arranged that the children occupy one wing, the adults the opposite, and the sisters the center. The central portion, where the altar stands, is higher than the two wings, so that those in one wing of the chapel can not see those in the other wing.

The dietary for the children on the day of my visit was as follows: For breakfast, bread, coffee, and oatmeal with milk or sugar; for dinner (it being Friday), pancakes, potatoes, rice and sweetened tea; for supper, bread, tea and jelly. The children sit at separate tables and, in fact, are in a department by themselves. They were suitably dressed and appeared cleanly.

In regard to the disposal of the inmates Sister Mary Agnes said: "We generally get situations for them and look to them afterwards, but six months is too short a time to reform these women. They should be committed either upon an indefinite sentence, or for a term of not less than one year nor more than two."

The devotion shown by the sisterhood in conducting this difficult work is worthy of all praise, and the institution is without doubt doing much good; but I am impressed with the belief that the committing of innocent girls to, or the caring for them in, an institution known to be of the nature of a reformatory for fallen women must leave a stigma upon their character and stand in the way of their future advancement in life. Notwithstanding the precautions taken in the construction and arrangement of the buildings and in the administration of the institution to prevent contamination of the innocent by the guilty, the two classes in one way or another will come to know each other. The latter will claim acquaintanceship with the former after dis-

charge, from the fact of their once having been inmates of the same institution; and the innocent will be forced by association down to the level of the incorrigible.

The Buffalo Children's Aid Society.

(29 Franklin street.)

This work, organized in 1872, under the leadership of David E. Brown, for the benefit of the newsboys and bootblacks of the city, and conducted for a time under the name of the Buffalo Child-saving Society, was finally incorporated in 1883 under its present title. Its objects, as set forth in its articles of incorporation, are "the establishment and maintenance of one or more homes for children in the city of Buffalo; the protection, care, shelter and saving of friendless and vagrant children; furnishing them with food, raiment and lodging; aiding and administering to their wants; providing them with suitable occupation; instructing them in moral and religious truths and in the rudiments of education; and, with such means as the society can properly employ, endeavoring to make them virtuous and useful citizens."

Its affairs are directed and managed by a board of fifteen gentlemen trustees, co-operating with a large board of active lady managers. The office of president of the first-named board has been made vacant by the demise of S. S. Guthrie, a steadfast, self-sacrificing friend of the society, who held the office continually from the time of its incorporation to his death in November last. The present acting president is P. J. Ferris; the secretary, Millard S. Burns; the treasurer, E. A. Rockwood. Of the board of lady managers, Mrs. Annie Lucille Bliss is president; Mrs. Charles Utley, corresponding secretary; Mrs. C. A. Allen, recording secretary; and Miss Sabina Morris, treasurer.

The work of the society is conducted in a two-story brick building, with basement and dormer attic, situated at No. 29 Franklin street, which is called the Newsboys and Bootblacks' Home. The home is under the immediate charge of Hermon L. Swift, superintendent, who is aided by an assistant, William W. Crawford,

and a matron, Mrs. Mary McPherson. There are also employed by the society a cook, a laundress and a maid of all work.

The building occupied is supplied with city water, lighted by gas and heated by steam. In the basement are the dining-room, kitchen and laundry; on the main floor are the schoolroom, boys' playroom, lavatory, etc.; on the floor above are the apartments of the officers and a parlor, sewing-room, hospital-room, etc.; the third floor is devoted entirely to two large dormitories for the boys.

The home was visited September eighteenth. It then contained thirty boys, ranging in age from 6 to 17 years. These included one Hebrew, one German lad and one Irish lad, and three colored boys. There were no Italians.

The schoolroom is a large apartment, furnished with patent desks and contains an organ. There is also a piano in the house, on both of which some of the boys are given instruction by the superintendent. In the schoolroom is a large table with rim, upon which a class of boys, by means of moist sand, are instructed in geography, history, etc. The boys are taught spelling, reading, writing, arithmetic, physiology, history and other studies. Five of the boys receive instruction in typewriting.

On Sundays a Sunday-school is conducted from 9 to 10 o'clock in the morning. From fifteen to twenty of the boys usually attend church and church Sunday-school.

In one of the rooms are provided savings-bank boxes for each lad, in which he may deposit his earnings. These accumulations are from time to time withdrawn, and with them some of the boys make deposits in the city savings banks; thus acquiring a habit of saving and taking care of their money. For the care of his clothes and personal effects each boy has a cupboard with a key allotted him.

The boys pay in proportion to their earnings, from one dollar to two dollars a week. All are expected to pay something. Some of the boys have mothers that they help to support; some have drunken fathers, and all are homeless.

The persistent, ubiquitous, self-denying little sons of Italy have about monopolized the newspaper selling business and have driven the Yankee and German boys to the wall. There was but one boy in the house that obtained his living by selling newspapers or blacking boots. All were working in stores, factories, or offices, carrying newspapers on established routes to regular subscribers, or attending the public schools.

The boys rise at 6 a. m., wash and prepare for breakfast, which is served at 6.30. Most of them are provided with lunch, and then leave for their several occupations. A dinner is served at 12 o'clock, to which some return. The few boys attending the public school return about 3 o'clock, but most of the boys return from 5 to 6, when supper is served, which consisted, on the day of my visit, of coffee, bread and butter, cake and fried potatoes; the dinner was made up of bean soup, pork and beans, bread and crackers and rice pudding; for breakfast were served tea and bread and butter, oatmeal and milk, sausage, and for each a piece of cake.

From 7 to 8 o'clock p. m. the boys are instructed in their studies and in singing in the schoolroom; then follow games and play. After Bible reading and prayer, they retire at 9 o'clock, except on Saturday evenings, when such as desire to do so may stay up later.

The interior spirit of the home is set forth in the words of the lady president, as follows: "The home element is strongly, at all times and in all cases, dwelt upon. The boys are taught to go with their cares and troubles to our most excellent superintendent and to our very considerate housekeeper and matron, as they would to a father or mother. They are taught to be thoughtful of each other in every way, and to help one another as well as themselves. Coming as they do from families that have never known what sympathy and kindness mean, our boys are full of faults, and it is no light work to guide their sensitive souls into better paths. It requires all the tact of a diplomatist, combined with the energy and attention of a perfect business manager; but, as I have said, the boys are very quick to feel and appreciate a kindness. I have

seen a little boy, one of the worst of his class, burst into a flood of tears at a kind word and a pat on the head."

The records of the home show that, with the year ending December 10, 1893, the number of boys admitted was 132, all of whom were in one way or another aided; the number of lodgings furnished was 9,355; the number of meals served, 25,702; the number of visits made by the superintendent to places of business where boys were at work, 975; the number of situations obtained for boys, 190. In the meantime eleven boys were returned to their homes in other cities and eight were placed in good homes in the country. One hundred and forty-four letters of sympathy and encouragement were written to boys who had gone from the home. None of those at the home had been arrested during the year, nor were they regarded with suspicion by the police.

One of the great needs of the institution is believed to be a gymnasium and enlarged accommodations for its manual training school, which promises to be a success. The institution was found to be orderly kept, and its affairs appeared to be well administered. The zealous spirit shown by the benevolent ladies engaged in this work of rescuing homeless street wanderers is manifestly bearing good fruit in the elevation of its inmates and in making self-supporting, respectable citizens out of what would otherwise largely become outcasts, if not burdens, upon society.

The Buffalo Deaconess Home of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

(2978 Main street.)

The home is situated on Main street, near the Niagara Falls branch of the New York, Lake Erie and Western railway. The building is of stone and is two and a half stories high. The lot upon which it stands is seventy-five feet front and 200 feet deep.

The objects of the corporation are to minister to the poor, visit the sick, pray with the dying, care for the orphans, seek the wandering, and comfort the sorrowing. It is not intended to provide for or receive destitute children at present, but the deaconesses

assist in finding homes for such children and render them such other aid and assistance as is practicable.

The governing board of the home is composed of nine members, six of whom are clergymen and three of whom are women. Rev. A. P. Ripley is president; Miss Amanda C. Minard, secretary; and Joseph Kittinger, treasurer. Miss Elizabeth Smith, from the Lucy Wells Training School in Washington, is superintendent of the home. There are three classes of deaconesses, namely: Parish or visiting deaconesses, nurse deaconesses and teaching deaconesses. "The nurse deaconess must have passed a two years' course of reading and study, as well as have taken the theoretical instruction prescribed by the faculty of any standard training school for nurses, together with practical work in a hospital under competent direction." The teaching deaconess, in addition to the course of study prescribed for the parish deaconess, "must have prepared herself for kindergarten, kitchen-garden, or other industrial teaching, or such other departments of instruction as she proposes to enter upon." No vow is exacted from any deaconess, and any one of them is at liberty to relinquish her position at any time. No one can be authorized to perform the duties of deaconess until she has served a probation of two years of continuous service, and shall have attained the age of 25 years. When working singly each deaconess is under the direction of the pastor of the church with which she is connected. When associated in the home all its members are subordinate to and under the direction of the superintendent in charge.

There are at present enrolled at the home on Main street, in all, ten deaconesses and probationers wearing the garb of their order. A training-school is maintained here, and two of the deaconesses, formerly visitors to the sick poor, are now in training at one of the city hospitals, preparing to graduate as trained nurses. Several of the probationers are in training for kindergarten teachers, and three are engaged in kindergarten teaching. The work is supported by voluntary contributions.

Buffalo Free Kindergarten Association.

Organized and incorporated in 1891. John G. Milburn, president; Charles H. Keep, secretary; W. C. Miner, treasurer.

The affairs of the association are controlled by a board of thirty-six ladies and gentlemen, representing both Roman Catholic and Protestant denominations. Miss Ella C. Elder, formerly a teacher in the Florence kindergarten in Massachusetts, is general superintendent of the work. Miss Elder succeeded Miss Margaret C. Brown, who, in her zeal to see this work established in Buffalo, gave her valuable services for one year free to the cause.

The association conducts a school for training teachers, in which are inculcated the principles of the Froebel system; and the students receive a thorough training by practice in the free kindergartens. The training classes meet at the Elmwood school on three afternoons in the week, from 2.30 to 5.30. The full course requires two years, and diplomas are awarded upon the satisfactory completion of the course. Fifteen kindergartners graduated from the training class in June, 1893, nearly all of whom found desirable positions at the beginning of the school year following. Applicants are not enrolled as members of the training class until after a trial of four weeks. Fair general culture, refinement of moral sentiment and of manners, some knowledge of the sciences and of music, together with a love of children, are tests of fitness to enter upon the work.

The funds of the association are partly raised by a membership fee of five dollars, but mainly by voluntary subscriptions. The city appropriated \$2,400 towards supporting the kindergartens of the association during 1891 and 1892, and \$3,600 for the same purpose during 1893 and 1894. At the outset, in 1891, four free kindergartens were established; in the following year two more were opened; and so popular have they become that two more have been opened in 1893, making in all eight kindergartens. These are situated as follows: One on the corner of Pennsylvania and Seventh streets; one on Fifth street, between Carolina and Virginia; one on Erie street, near the canal; one near the foot of Main street; one on Elk street, corner of Alabama; one at 680 Wil-

liam street; one at 709 Seneca street; and one at Black Rock. It requires about \$1,000 to carry one of these through the school year of forty weeks.

At these gatherings the children sing songs, play games, are taught how to sew, fold and cut papers, and make attractive things for their homes. They learn how to use their eyes and their hands, and how to amuse themselves at home and be useful. They are taught to be obedient, helpful, loving and good. At the same time they are kept off the streets.

Several of the kindergartens were visited during September, and in all of them the minds of the children seemed wholly taken up with the school exercises and stimulated to happy activity. The teachers were enthusiastic in their work, and their cheerfulness and animation inspired their little pupils with contented interest, as the frequent changes in the order of instruction progressed. There were three teachers in each of the schools visited. The number of pupils in each school is limited to from fifty to sixty, according to the size of the rooms. In the Erie street kindergarten there were fifty children. The attendance is not as regular here as in some other kindergartens, in consequence of the frequent changes in the population of the district and the dissolute and irregular habits of many of the parents. This school was more particularly examined on account of its having difficult material to deal with, and because of its large Italian element. The following information, given by Miss Ida Melvine Nicholass, principal of the school, will be of interest, and may be taken as an index to the systems in the other kindergartens:

"At the outset clean hands and faces are constantly urged and insisted upon. We have aprons to put on the children should they need them when they come to kindergarten, and we also have facilities for bathing, should their condition need it. Our routine is as follows: The morning exercises occupy twenty minutes, beginning at 9 o'clock; physical exercises occupy twenty minutes; gift work, thirty-five minutes; luncheon, twenty minutes; which is followed by games occupying thirty minutes, and occupation thirty minutes; the children returning to the circle for good-bye song fifteen minutes before noon.

"At this kindergarten we take some central thought or subject, around which we try to group the week's work and play; keeping at the same time the thought of the month's and year's work in mind, so that each week's and month's work will form a link in the chain of the whole year's completed cycle; taking care that unity and harmony in all things are preserved.

"Our plan, generally speaking, for this year's work, is to emphasize the thought of interdependence, and to show the love of our Heavenly Father for each and all of His children; that all good gifts come from Him, and that to Him thanks and praise should be given.

"We first take up mother love and family life, as being near to the child; and the family being the type of unity, it is most fitting that we should begin with it; then family life and mother love as shown forth in the animal kingdom; the care of the mother sheep for the little lambs; the love and care of the mother and father bird for their tiny birdlings, etc.

"The child, having developed and broadened somewhat after a time spent upon these subjects, is ready to look beyond the home life, and is soon interested in watching the busy working world about him. It is at this point that we take up the various trades and try to show respect for labor and the interdependence of each upon all. The carpenter, farmer, miller, baker, etc., are thus taken up and studied, and the children are each in turn the different workers, and all try to see what good and faithful ones they can be. While illustrating these games only the best work is commended, though honest effort is always encouraged and noticed and the little one stimulated to renewed endeavor.

"After the study of the family life and the life of the various workers about him, the child is led, through his love for those who contribute to his happiness and welfare, to a knowledge and love for his country and those who, from love of her, have lived good lives and done brave deeds. Thus the national holidays, like Thanksgiving and Washington's Birthday, have an important place upon our year's calendar, as all help to teach the same lesson. Friedrich Froebel's birthday, too, is a time-honored occa-

sion, and the love this good man had for the little children of all countries and places and his plan for making them happy and useful is lovingly dwelt upon and brought home to them.

"From the love and loyalty to State and country we take up universal life, the reawakening of nature after the winter's rest and the quickening and renewal of all life. Thus we complete the cycle, letting the children experience as closely as possible the all-pervading love and care of the Heavenly Father for these His children, and that His love and care surround them constantly and are being continually poured out upon them, so that they may grow up to be strong and willing workers in His bright and beautiful world.

"While we always write out our programmes and plan our week's and month's work, and thus know clearly and definitely what we want to accomplish when we enter our kindergarten each morning, we do not let it bind us or restrict the children. We try to look at the work in hand from a twofold point of view—from the standpoint of the kindergarten and from the standpoint of the child—and we never make the latter bend to the former, but rather change and modify the former so it will meet the needs of the latter. As the greater part of the children are Italians and come to us unable to speak English, the progress is of necessity very slow, so that the work for the two lower divisions has to be made exceedingly simple and elementary.

"We find that visiting the homes and coming into personal contact with the parents is absolutely essential to good work, and when all other avenues of reaching them seem to be closed and they appear utterly callous and hardened to all kindly influences, the mother and father love will be found to be still burning, if but dimly, and they will sincerely begin for their little ones' sakes to be and do better. Even when they lapse back into the old habits the kindergartner is gladdened by this momentary striving after better things, and we know they are stronger for having made the feeble effort, and we are always hopeful that they will return to the better way."

Respecting the general results of the work Miss Elder, in a recent report, says: "The results in the different kindergartens vary very much, according to location and the English-speaking ability of the children. In the four kindergartens where most of the children speak English there has been very satisfactory advancement, both intellectually and morally. At Erie street the results have been very encouraging, in spite of the fact that to many English was an unknown tongue in the beginning. At Main street the conditions have been especially difficult, and perhaps as much has been accomplished as could be expected in one year. The most valuable results are not to be sought in intellectual advancement, however desirable that may be, but in the development of character, which comes from the acceptance of higher ideals, and from willing adaptation to orderly and refined influences. Only the kindergartner, who sees the gain from day to day, who notes the small beginnings in intellectual as well as in moral and spiritual development, who watches the struggles between self and the larger good, can estimate the full measure of improvement.

"The kindergarten is a center of happy, healthful activity. The head and the heart, as well as the hand, are exercised in right directions. The formation of right habits is the natural result of conformity to the well-ordered life of the kindergarten. By frequent repetition of a right course of action the line of least resistance is established, and the foundation is laid for right living. To develop in a child habits of persevering industry, self-control and a ready responsiveness to the appeal to higher motives, is to prepare him for honorable and self-respecting citizenship; and all this we have a right to expect in some slight degree as a result of kindergarten training. To pass the groups of idle loungers on street corners, as one must do in visiting the kindergartens in the lower part of the city, is to gain the impression that the foundation of self-respect is cleanliness and willingness to work. The constant attention to neatness in the kindergarten ought to develop a sense of cleanliness which can not be wholly forgotten in later years, while the attractive materials which make work a

pleasure are calculated to develop a love of work which should make it well nigh impossible for a child trained in kindergarten to become an idle and useless member of society."

In visiting these kindergartens it is interesting to note the difference between the faces of the new pupils and those of the older ones. The former are more or less sullen, dull and suspicious; the latter are open, clear, bright and unclouded, and express kindness and intelligence.

It is impossible to estimate the benefits accruing to society through the influence of these schools in raising the standard of intelligence, morality and useful citizenship in the rising generation. Lasting honor is due to those who organized this work in Buffalo and who sustain it by much personal sacrifice. In no way can the means of the benevolent be expended with a greater promise of good returns in all that gives strength and stability to a commonwealth. The results seen elsewhere in the establishment of kindergartens warrant this statement, especially in the marvelous work wrought by the citizens of San Francisco under the leadership of that indefatigable worker, Mrs. Sarah B. Cooper. In a letter that I received from her in 1891 she says: "We have proved the exceeding value of this work to the needy classes of large cities. This is an unanswerable argument. Out of nearly 8,000 children that the Golden Gate Kindergarten Association has trained during the past twelve years, only one has ever been under arrest so far as we can learn after the most diligent inquiry in all directions, and that, too, in face of the fact that our children come from the districts that go to make up our criminal element almost entirely. If we could save one generation of children we should see the dawn of a new and better day."

Since Mrs. Cooper first organized a free kindergarten in San Francisco in 1880, the Golden Gate Kindergarten Association, of which she is president, has received, by gifts and emoluments, upwards of \$400,000 to carry on the work. There are now thirty-seven schools under the Golden Gate Association with an enrollment last year of 3,318 pupils.

Buffalo Orphan Asylum.

(403 Virginia street.)

This asylum was incorporated in 1837. It is controlled by a board of eleven trustees, of which Walter H. Johnson is president; Carl T. Chester, secretary; and Stephen M. Clement, treasurer. The internal affairs of the institution are managed by a board of directresses selected from the various Protestant churches of the city. Of this board Mrs. Tracy C. Becker is first directress, and Mrs. J. H. Dawes is secretary. Mrs. M. L. Hopkins is superintendent of the asylum.

The asylum building is of brick with right and left wings, all two stories high, besides the attic and basement. The buildings are lighted by gas, heated by steam, supplied with water from the city, and are connected with the city sewerage system. There are verandas on the outside of the buildings communicating with the second floors, the stairs of which form outside fire-escapes. A fire-alarm is stationed in the same block, and there is connection with the city telephone system.

The force subordinate to the superintendent consists of an office assistant, who looks after the children that have been placed in families, a boys' governess and a girls' governess for the older children. In the infant ward there is a head nurse and six assistants during the day and a nurse having charge of the children at night. In the nursery department, containing about eighteen children, from 3 to 6 years old, there is a head nurse and an assistant. There are also a housekeeper, a seamstress, a dining-room girl, a cook with an assistant, two laundresses and a janitor. Machinery, which is propelled by a ten horse power engine, is used in the laundry. The children attend the public school in a building which is situated on an adjoining lot. The average of scholarship was good. Between the hours of 1.15 and 3 in the afternoon children between the ages of 3 and 6 have the advantages of kindergarten instruction, under a trained teacher. Of the kindergarten Mrs. Hopkins said: "My experience leads me to think that it is indispensable. By this means the children are not only entertained but instructed and taught to think. Besides, it breaks up the treadmill routine of their lives."

The institution was visited September ninth. At that date it contained in the asylum proper 106 children — fifty-four boys and fifty-two girls. In the infant department there were sixteen babies, making a total of 122. The children were nearly all under 10 years of age. A very few of them, including a little girl with spinal complaint and a boy with one arm, were physically defective. There is no lying-in ward in connection with the infant department, and mothers are only occasionally received with children. There were but three there at the time of my visit. The mothers nurse their own children, but are not required to nurse the child of another. The babies are bottle fed. Mrs. Hopkins said: "We have had as many as nineteen babies at one time in the nursery. We think we have been very successful with them this summer. We sterilize the milk, and boil the water they drink. We give them the best of care, with good air, warmth and sunlight. Children between the ages of 3 and 6 are kept in what is called the nursery department. The asylum children rise at 6.30 a. m., breakfast at 7, take dinner at noon, and have supper at 5 o'clock."

About one-third of the children are received upon an order from the superintendent of the poor. If they are not placed out within a year after their admission, or within a less period that may be stipulated by the superintendent of the poor, it is understood that he may remove them. It is seldom that they are kept a year. If they are not placed out before the expiration of a year or the time stipulated, the one dollar a week contributed by the county towards their support is withheld, and they become a charge upon the asylum. About two-thirds of the children are those for whom parents or friends have agreed to pay a small sum, according to their ability, towards their support, or those who are supported wholly by the asylum, having been received as charity subjects. Frequently the parents or friends are unable or fail to pay anything, and such children become charity subjects. During the preceding year two Indian orphan children were received, who proved to be tractable and kind-hearted. One of these, through the influence of Rev. Dr. Hubbell, was admitted into the Indian school at Carlisle, Pa.

Many of the children after receiving asylum training go back to their friends. Mrs. Hopkins said: "It is one of the discouraging things about our work that so many of our children must be returned to their poor, shiftless parents, who do not know how to provide for themselves, much less to care for and properly train their children. We can not help such children much in the few months they are with us. If we could have control of them longer, instead of being obliged to have them go back to their old surroundings and deteriorating influences, and could place them where the right kind of training would be continued, they would become eventually good men and women. There are, however, frequently good families overtaken by some disaster, and by taking care of their children temporarily we tide them over some great misfortune into thrift and independence."

The asylum population changes about once a year. Besides the county agent, who assists the asylum in placing out children, the institution has an agent of its own for finding homes for children, into which they are all adopted. The manner of disposing of children and looking after them afterwards is thus described by Mrs. Hopkins: "The person making application for a child is requested to furnish testimonials from responsible persons, usually a pastor, family physician, and some other prominent person residing in the same locality as the applicant. If the testimonials are found to be satisfactory they are recorded, and the applicant is allowed to take the child for three months on trial. In the meantime the home is visited by our agent, who is instructed to ascertain, among other things, whether the foster parents and the child are adapted to each other, to satisfy herself that the house is well conducted and that its surroundings are good, and also, by private consultation with the child, to ascertain whether it is satisfied with its foster parents. If the agent reports favorably the child is then adopted. If subsequently a complaint comes to us, as it sometimes does, that the child is not properly cared for we at once send our agent to the persons who recommended the foster parents. If it is found that the child is not made a member of the family, taught habits of

cleanliness and industry, and sent to school regularly, and also to Sunday-school, and that it is not otherwise well cared for as stipulated, the contract is declared void and the child is brought back to the asylum."

In respect to some of the difficulties attending the restoration of children to family life, the executive committee of the board of trustees says: "Occasional annoyance, perhaps incident to the work of providing homes for the children who have been abandoned by their parents, has occurred because of the attempt of some such parents to re-establish intercourse with their children for whom we had found good homes and adoptive parents. To be firm in denying intercourse in these cases sometimes seems contrary to our impulses, but the welfare of the children and the usefulness of the institution are, as they must be, our sole object in determining these delicate questions. This duty becomes peculiarly difficult of performance when well-meaning but unthinking and often misinformed sympathizers with the parent protest against enforcement of our rules and indulge in harsh criticism and denunciation of the officers of the asylum. It is certain that in order to continue to obtain good homes for our abandoned waifs and to protect the tender relations which should spring up between them and their foster parents, intrusion upon those relations, except in extreme cases, can not be permitted."

It is the aim of the asylum to place children where they are received from other than selfish motives. The agent, Miss Northway, says of this work. "In looking over our records, we find many good Christian people have opened their hearts and homes to these homeless little ones, not for the service alone that they might render, but for the Master's sake. To use their own words, that they might do some good in the world."

The children were clean, free from sore eyes, and in apparent good health. Outside of the infant wards there had been but one death during the preceding year, and this was the first death that had occurred in eight years. In the infant ward, as also in some other departments, fires are kept burning in the grates during the whole year, to improve ventilation. The infant ward has a southern exposure, and the veranda is inclosed with

glazed sash, which is open or closed according to the season and weather. The lavatories in the asylum are supplied with clean towels every day, but each child does not have a towel to itself. Each one of the girls has her own comb, but hair-brushes are used in common. Provision is made for isolation of children in case of epidemic or infectious disease.

The dietary is varied and nutritious. It is given as follows: For breakfast, oatmeal with cream and sugar, bread and butter and coffee, or bread and milk for those preferring milk to coffee; for dinner, roast beef with brown gravy on alternate days, potatoes every day, beet pickles, bread, syrup, and milk; for supper, bread and butter and milk. Two kinds of vegetables are given with the dinner, according to the season. Some kind of meat or fish is supplied at every dinner. Fruit, in its season, is supplied, including apples, pears, plums and berries. The latter are usually stewed. The daily supply of milk is twenty gallons, of meat from twenty-five to thirty pounds, and upwards of 125 pounds of butter are consumed each month. The superintendent favors not only a generous diet, but a plentiful measure of sleep. She says that the "little tots," in the morning, are put to bed at 10 o'clock, and sleep until within a few minutes of 12, when they get up and prepare for dinner.

In the way of employment, the boys as well as the girls assist in housekeeping. The girls are taught to sew and knit, make patchwork, darn stockings, mend clothes, make beds, etc. The boys are taught to sew on buttons, do patchwork and make rag carpets. The children are paid a penny a pound for sewing carpet rags, and with the money give little parties to one another, thus cultivating the social element.

In respect to discipline Mrs. Hopkins said: "I scarcely ever have to punish a child. When I do, it is by spanking with the hand or by using a switch. I never put a child in a dark room. Some simple and not hurtful means of correction is usually resorted to, like making a child go to bed out of its regular hours."

The beds in the dormitories are comfortable. About half of the bedsteads have woven-wire bottoms. The dormitories were well aired.

The children are not dressed uniformly. Shoes and stockings are worn, except by such boys as desire to go barefoot when at play in summer.

The chapel of the asylum has been made very attractive by the Lake Erie Commandery of Knights Templar, it having supplied inlaid floors, wainscoted the walls, put in stained glass windows and otherwise beautified the apartment. The commandery, for several years past, has made a New Year's visit to the children. Exercises are held in the chapel every evening. Much pains is taken by the superintendent to impart scriptural instruction to those under her care.

The children seemed to be contented and happy, and were quite natural and unrestrained in their manner. They were well dressed and cleanly. The air in the asylum was pure and wholesome throughout, the institution was well kept, and its internal affairs appeared to be well conducted. It is filled to the extent of its capacity, and is unable to take all the children for whom application is made.

The whole number of children received into the asylum during the year ending September 30, 1893, was 191; the number that had been placed out by adoption, twenty-nine; returned to parents or guardians, 110; transferred to other institutions or otherwise discharged, ten; and the number that had died, including babies, was four.

Buffalo Society for the Relief of the Poor.

Organized in 1847 and incorporated in 1852; George W. Townsend, president; Oscar Cobb, secretary; James E. Ford, treasurer.

The society uses the interest on an invested fund to afford relief in special cases of need to worthy persons, known by personal investigation of the managers not to be on the public poor-roll.

For further information respecting the work, see Buffalo City Dispensary.

The Charity Foundation of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the City of Buffalo.

(Rhode Island street, between Sixth and Seventh.)

This foundation, incorporated in 1858, is controlled by a board of managers and associate managers. The internal affairs of the institution have been, since 1878, in charge of deaconesses of the Protestant Episcopal church. The officers of the board of managers are Dr. Thomas Lothrop, president; Martin Clarke, secretary; and George V. Foreman, treasurer. The president of the board of lady managers is Mrs. John Rice, and the secretary is Mrs. W. E. Plummer, Jr.

The objects of the foundation (or "Church Home," as it is more generally called), as stated in its charter, are: "The relief, shelter, support, education, protection and maintenance of indigent, sick or infirm persons, including indigent orphan and half-orphan children, and all such children as the providence of God shall have left in a destitute and unprotected state and condition, giving preference to those who are members of the Protestant Episcopal church, but admitting to the benefits of this charity all persons who will accept the religious ministration of the Protestant Episcopal church."

The home occupies an elevated site overlooking the lake, and the spacious lot on which it stands is bounded on three sides by streets. The building was formerly a large family mansion, and it stands in the midst of a lawn beautified with flowers and protected by shade-trees. There is also a garden of nearly two acres, which produces a great variety of vegetables. The house is supplied with city water, is connected with the city sewerage and telephone systems, is heated by steam, and lighted by gas. It has but one outside fire-escape.

The institution embraces three departments—the old people's department, the orphan department and the nursery department. It is under the immediate charge of three deaconesses of the Protestant Episcopal church, of whom Sister Louise is the principal. She is also the principal of the school, in which are two other teachers. The city department pays, however, what is

equivalent to the salary of but one teacher. Aside from the school, in which there are six or seven grades, a modified kindergarten is maintained, in which there are from sixteen to twenty little ones in the morning. In the school proper there are listed forty-five pupils.

The force under the deaconesses consists of a housekeeper, a cook and her assistant, two laundresses and one housemaid. There are, besides, a nurse for the nursery, a nurse for old people, a seamstress and a janitor.

The institution was visited September eighth. It then contained sixty-two beneficiaries. Of these, nine were aged or infirm women in the old people's department; twenty were boys and nineteen were girls in the orphan department; and fourteen were children from 2 to 6 years of age. Only about sixteen children had been received upon the order of the superintendent of the poor. The majority of the children are what are termed boarders, for whom parents or guardians agree to pay a weekly sum, but frequently fail to keep their agreement. Some have mothers out at service.

In respect to the placing out of county children Sister Louise said: "I do not think the county agent always allows the children to stay as long as they ought for the children's benefit. We took some recently off the county list for this reason, and for the reason that the parents were not willing to surrender them. The county agent desired to send a small group of them to the west, but the parents and friends would not consent, and so some of them were taken out and some were kept at our own expense. It seems to me that with the thorough training we are giving these children we are doing them more good than they would get in the majority of homes where they are placed. Unless they receive some thorough preparatory training one can not get them into nice homes, and justice is not done the children."

All the children wear shoes and stockings, and they were comfortably clothed. The bedsteads have woven-wire bottoms, and the beds were well looked to; but the air-space is much below the statutory requirement for each child. There were no cases of ophthalmia, nor was there any sickness among the children

except one case of whooping-cough. There had been no deaths among them during the preceding year. Each child has its own towel, wash-cloth, tooth-brush, comb and hair-brush. Outside of the building is a large planked space, enabling the children to play out-of-doors when they could not do so on the wet ground.

The nursery department was well lighted, and, with its little tables and chairs, pictured walls and little cribs with brass knobs, looked quite attractive.

The orphan department of the institution is much crowded, notwithstanding the number here is less than usual in consequence of a recent epidemic of whooping-cough which temporarily suspended the admission of children. There is a lack of air-space, and it is inconvenient on account of its structural arrangement. The need of an extension of the institution is imperative. It was stated that plans for a new edifice, mainly for the children, have been projected, which it is intended to erect next year.

The inmates of the institution appeared to be well cared for and to be cheerful and contented. The house was clean and in order and its internal affairs appeared to be well managed.

Charity Organization Society of Buffalo.

(Central Office, Fitch Institute, corner of Swan and Michigan sts.)

The first movement in the direction of charity organization in this country originated in Buffalo in 1877, mainly inspired by a course of public lectures given upon the subject by Rev. S. H. Gurteen. The first official State recognition of such work was made by the New York State Board of Charities, when, in 1880, it transmitted to the Legislature, with its thirteenth annual report, a paper by Mr. Gurteen, especially prepared for this purpose. In 1882 the work of charity organization was begun in New York City. Since then it has continued to extend until, at the close of 1893, we find eighty-nine charity organization societies in various cities of the Union from Augusta to New Orleans.

The Buffalo society was incorporated in 1879. An act was passed in 1881, chapter 112, permitting the society to receive valuable property from the philanthropist, Benjamin Fitch, and

authorizing it to use such property and its income. The objects of the society are as follows:

1. "To bring into harmonious co-operation with each other and with the overseer of the poor the various churches, charitable agencies and individuals in the city, and thus, among other things, to check the evils of the overlapping of relief.

2. "To investigate thoroughly, and without charge, the cases of all applicants for charity which are referred to the society for inquiry, and to send the persons having a legitimate interest in such cases full reports of the results of investigation.

3. "To obtain from the proper charities and from charitable individuals suitable and adequate relief for deserving cases; to provide visitors, who shall personally attend cases needing counsel and help; and to procure work for poor persons who are capable of being wholly or partially self-supporting.

4. "To assist, from its own funds, so far as possible, in the form of loans, all suitable cases for which adequate assistance can not be obtained from other sources.

5. "To repress mendicity by the above means and by the prosecution of impostors.

6. "To promote the general welfare of the poor by social and sanitary reforms, and by the inculcation of habits of providence and self-dependence, and to these ends to establish and maintain, in whole or in part, the following provident institutions, viz.: One or more crèches; some practical means of encouraging the saving of small sums of money by the poor; one or more provident dispensaries, which may include arrangements for the temporary treatment of persons injured in the neighborhood and unable to be carried to the general hospitals; and such other provident institutions as shall tend to the physical, moral or intellectual improvement of the poor, and as shall be within the corporate powers of the society."

The history of this corporation is of deep interest to all students of social science, and will be found fully recorded in the comprehensive and valuable reports which the society has annually published. The reforms in old abuses, the extraordinary reduction in the public burden for the support of the poor, are set

forth in its reports; but no correct estimate can be made of the benefits that have accrued to society through the work of its unpaid members and its paid official staff through the saving of individuals and families from pauperism, the building up of character and pride of self-support, thrift and independent citizenship in the masses, and in various ways promoting the general well-being of society. Compared with results accomplished, the expenditure has been insignificant. From its last report, for the nine months ending September 30, 1893, much of the statistical information for this report is extracted.

The society is managed by a board of trustees, fifteen in number, who are the legal guardians of its property and interests, and by the "council," a larger body which holds monthly meetings for discussing its affairs, and which appoints committees to have charge of the various branches of the work. The officers of the society are T. Guilford Smith, president; Sherman S. Rogers, vice-president; Ansley Wilcox, chairman of the executive committee; Marion I. Moore, assistant secretary; B. B. Glenn, treasurer; and Joseph G. Dudley, cashier.

The headquarters of the society are on the upper floors of the Fitch Institute building, a large brick structure on the corner of Swan and Michigan streets, which was planned by Mr. Fitch, and built out of means furnished by him for the purposes of the society. The site of the building was also given by him, as well as other valuable real estate situated in different parts of the city.

Besides the work carried on in its central office, and three district offices, it has the following branches: The Fitch Accident Hospital and the Fitch Provident Dispensary, in the same building, the Fitch Creche and Training-School for Nursery Maids, in a building adjoining on Swan street, and the Provident Woodyard and Labor Bureau, 638 South Division street. All of these are separately dealt with in this report.

A notable feature of the society's scheme is the opportunity it affords for the depositing and saving of small earnings through its Penny Savings Fund. The council says, in reporting upon this branch of the work: "The Penny Savings Fund, which aims to instill habits of saving, is slowly increasing in its useful-

ness, though not reaching as many people as desired. With exceptions, the depositors are boys and girls saving, for some definite object, the money they have earned. The value of books redeemed amounted to \$1,096.12, which represents savings made for specific purposes during the nine months ending October 1, 1893." Of the district work of the society in dealing with destitute and unfortunate families in their homes the council says:

"The three district committees have met sixty-five times, when the condition of 1,561 families was considered. Six hundred and forty-six of that number are families new to the society, an increase of fifty over the previous year, which is due not entirely to a lack of employment, but to sickness, death or desertion of the bread-winner. Of the 1,573 investigations made during the past nine months, 1,361 were made because the families were receiving official relief from the overseer of the poor; nearly as many as in the twelve months previous. One hundred and fifty-one personal applications for relief and work have been considered, while forty-eight investigations were made at the request of private individuals; thirteen from co-operating societies, and twenty-two from other charity organization societies.

"The comparison clearly indicates that the citizens of Buffalo in their benevolent work might use this society much more than they do in ascertaining the facts upon which their action ought to be based.

"Two points are considered by the district committees when deciding upon the needs of an applicant: First, as to relief, and second, how that special family can become self-supporting. If the relief is from the city, the question is asked, 'Are they entitled to it?' and if they are not, a report is sent to the overseer of the poor, giving a summary of the reasons for the disapproval of that aid. If the family is not receiving official relief, the question arises, 'Where can the necessary assistance be procured?' Sometimes a small loan or grant from the funds of the society suffices; more often the committees are confronted with the problem of how to obtain the assistance from churches, charitable individuals or societies. Again, many families do not need relief, but simply a friend to advise and encourage them in their

endeavor to be independent, and it is here that the committees once more ask for more volunteer workers.

"Owing to the present financial condition of the country the outlook for working men during the coming winter is not at all encouraging. Many shops and factories are closed. A large number of men, both day laborers and artisans of all classes, are now unemployed, and if work is not resumed, will undoubtedly, after their savings have been spent, and their credit at the grocery store is exhausted, be obliged to ask for assistance.

"If these conditions do arise, we shall not only have to contend with the idle, who are such unwillingly, and through no fault of their own, but also with those who are only too ready to beg for assistance on the plea of 'no work;' and in dealing with both classes the utmost judgment and care should be observed. We desire to impress upon the citizens of Buffalo the necessity of refraining from indiscriminate alms-giving, and that in giving assistance they should first inquire thoroughly into the true condition of the applicant, and carefully consider whether giving the relief will be of real benefit to the recipient."

The chief permanent source of income of the society is from the revenues of the property generously bestowed by Mr. Fitch, the gross income from which during the ten months preceding October 1, 1893, was \$11,673.45. The expense of keeping up the property, administering the Fitch fund, and maintaining the Fitch Institute, was, however, \$7,408.66. In order to carry on efficiently the various branches of the work the trustees of the society are of the opinion that they require, in addition to the revenue from the Fitch trust, about \$13,000 a year, to be raised by its annual charity ball, by membership fees and by voluntary contributions.

Charity Organization Society of the City of Lockport.

(No. 114 Church street.)

Organized in 1891, but not incorporated. It is intended as "a center of intercommunication between the various charitable agencies in the city; to foster harmonious co-operation between them, and to check the evils of the overlapping of relief; to prevent children from growing up as paupers; to encourage thrift,

self-dependence, and industry through friendly intercourse, advice and sympathy, and to help the poor to help themselves; to raise the needy above the necessity of relief; to prevent begging and imposition, and to diminish pauperism; assistance is rendered to persons out of employment, or who are objects of charity through improvidence or intemperance, conditional upon the good conduct and progress of the applicant, who must make every possible individual effort to raise himself or herself above the necessity of receiving charitable or municipal relief."

The affairs of the society are controlled by a central council, who are elected annually by members. W. H. Howes is president of the council; Edward H. Boynton, secretary; and George C. Lewis, treasurer. The work is sustained by voluntary contributions and by subscriptions of members.

The secretary makes the following statement respecting the operations of the society for the year 1893:

"I think it very generally admitted that the society, during the past year, has made considerable progress in methods of dealing with the situation here. Our lady investigating agent, Miss Sarah Woodruff, devotes nearly her whole time to the duties indicated by the title. The supervisory, or relief committee represents all the churches of the city, including the Romanist, and is heartily supported by nearly all of them. The Provident Wood-yard and Day Nursery is a distinct organization, supported by a separate subscription list, but working in harmony with us and in the same quarters. Neither association is incorporated. The work of the association has been felt to be a great aid by the officials of the city poor department. We have secured aid for deserving cases, and have, at the same time, conserved the poor fund by discovering many unworthy applicants."

The Christian Homestead Association.

(84 and 86 Lloyd street, Buffalo.)

This association, incorporated in 1891, carries on its work in three departments, as follows: The Homestead, at 84 and 86 Lloyd street, which is the headquarters of the association; the Mission,

163 Canal street, and a school, corner of Canal and Erie streets. The objects of the association are to rescue the unfortunate and erring through mission work, to give moral and religious instruction and industrial training to children, and to help the unfortunate and destitute to help themselves by finding situations for them where they may become self-supporting. The aims of the work extend to men, women and children.

The affairs of the association are directed by a board of nine trustees, of which George N. Pierce is president; J. J. McWilliams, secretary, and S. M. Clement, Jr., treasurer. The Homestead is under the immediate charge of W. G. Rhoades. The building is of brick and is four stories high. It is a lodging-house and restaurant and is designed solely for the purpose of providing for poor men clean and comfortable accommodations at a low price. It is supplied with 150 bedsteads, having woven-wire mattresses. There are ample bathing and lavatory accommodations and free wash-tubs for the use of the inmates. The reading-room is a spacious apartment and is well supplied with reading matter, including the daily papers. The building is well ventilated, and the floors and bedding are clean. An essential part of the outfit is a room for fumigating clothes, and the house is complete in its facilities for preserving cleanliness and immunity from such vermin as infests bedding and clothing. The charge for lodging is from ten to fifteen cents a night. During the past two years it has accommodated 93,225 persons with lodgings and given about 13,000 free baths. In the restaurant is served wholesome and nutritious food. The price charged for a beef stew, or hash, with rolls, bread and coffee, is five cents; for a steak, or oysters, with rolls, potatoes and coffee, the moderate sum of ten cents is charged. At the midday meal a choice is given of three kinds of roasts and sometimes of roast fowl, with bread, butter, potatoes, cabbage, coffee and pudding, the price being but ten cents for the meal. During the year 1893 upwards of 195,000 meals have been given to the guests of the Home. Great care and discrimination are exercised in the admission of applicants to the Homestead. The management insists on sobriety, cleanliness and general good behavior.

The mission is conducted by Mr. and Mrs. Hinman, the former working among the men and the latter among the women. The work of mission, or rescue, as it is likewise called, is said to be very successful, the attendance during December numbering nearly 200 each evening. The average attendance during the winter months is from 100 to 150, and during the summer from thirty to sixty.

Aside from the moral and spiritual benefits springing from this work it is thought that it exerts a wholesome influence in arresting public dependency.

The work for children is under the immediate direction of Miss Ida Grein, and includes a sewing-school, kitchen-garden, boys' club and a Sunday-school.

The Homestead proper is nearly or quite self-supporting from the sale of meal and lodging tickets. The mission and school are mainly supported by contributions from the friends of the institution. In 1891 the sum of \$10,000 was contributed to the work by a generous friend of the association, whose name has not been made public.

The District Nursing Association of Buffalo.

(65 Franklin street.)

The affairs of this association, which was incorporated in 1891, are directed by a board of five trustees, consisting of Miss Mary Auchinvole Lewis, president; Mrs. Dr. Bernard Bartow, secretary; Mrs. George Sicard, Mrs. Franklin D. Locke, and Miss Ellen M. Kent. Charles D. Marshall is treasurer. The object of the association is to furnish free nursing to the sick poor of the city who can not afford to pay for a physician and for medicines.

This beneficent work was organized in 1885 by Miss Elizabeth C. Marshall, who raised the means, mostly by contributions from members of the First Presbyterian Church of Buffalo, to employ one trained nurse to minister to the needs of the poor. As her funds increased she assigned to the members of her church and

its Sunday-school the task of supporting one nurse, and then extended the work, which she continued to supervise, by employing another trained nurse and paying her from the receipts of voluntary contributions and from her own purse. She acted as trustee of the funds raised, and did the work of a managing board until the work was incorporated, which was done but a short time before her death.

The headquarters of the society are at 65 Franklin street, in a frame house, the owner of which, Mr. Haskell L. Taylor, gives the rent free. The house is in charge of a matron and her daughter. This is the rendezvous for the nurses and is the place for the reception and distribution of all supplies. There are now three trained hospital nurses employed by the association, who are paid fifty dollars a month, each having one of the three districts into which the city is divided. The salary of one of the nurses is paid out of the estate of Miss Marshall, thus verifying the words of scripture to her as to one of old, who "being dead yet speaketh."

The nurses make their rounds the same as a physician during the day, and in urgent cases attend patients at night. They give the sick such attention as they need, dress wounds, see to their food, instruct members of the family how to wait upon them, and stay a sufficient length of time to make the patient comfortable. If necessary, they employ an attendant to wait upon the patient. No charge whatever is made for nursing or for medicines, the sole condition being that the recipients are too poor to pay for such themselves. Nurses use their own discretion in supplying dietary articles, including beef, eggs and milk, and in giving clothing, but are required to make full reports of the articles they distribute. Cases are reported to the association by the Charity Organization Society, by the poormaster, by charitable and benevolent societies and by individuals.

The yearly report for 1892-3 shows the number of visits made by the nurses to have been 3,403; the number of cases visited, 813. Of these, 275 were new cases. From the diet kitchen were distributed 3,545 diets.

Erie County Agents for Placing Out Children.

(Mrs. Rose Lane, 190 Front avenue, Buffalo; Mrs. W. P. Dean, 375 Thirteenth street, Buffalo.)

The system of placing out dependent children in Erie county and the results accomplished thereby, it is believed, can best be understood from the address of Charles Schoepflin, chairman of the committee on charitable institutions of the Erie county board of supervisors, made before the State convention of county superintendents of the poor at Bath, Steuben county, June twentieth to twenty-second, and from papers prepared for that occasion by Mrs. Rose Lane and Mrs. W. P. Dean, the county agents. It should be stated that for such children as are indentured the papers are made out by the superintendent of the poor. In cases of adoption the consent of both parents must be obtained, unless the parents have abandoned the child.

MR. SCHOEPFLIN'S ADDRESS.

I have the honor of representing the board of supervisors of Erie county in this convention. You all know that Erie is a large and important county, and the growth of its population has been wonderful. Yet when we look over our records we find that our expenses for charitable purposes are decreasing. We have, as you know, a committee on charitable institutions. I have served on that committee seven years. Last year we made that committee a standing committee, and its duties are to visit every county institution once every quarter and every State Institution once a year. We look over the accounts and find the persons that are committed and investigate as to whether they are proper county charges and proper persons to be in that place. When we started out with our work we were very much surprised. We found children in the institutions who properly ought to earn their living. We found there children going to the high schools and the county paying their board. We found children in asylums whose parents were well-to-do. We investigated as to their standing and that of their friends, and were surprised to find out how well many of them lived who had children in those institutions. If parents objected to taking them to their homes, we would say this child is old enough to earn its own living, and in that way we would get some to take them. * * *

We believe, in Erie county, that the best place for a child to be brought up is in the home. You may say that is a matter for the superintendent of the poor; why doesn't he investigate such things? I will answer for our superintendent that we think we have as good a one as there is in this State; that he runs the charitable work of Erie county in as good a manner as possible; but when you realize the size of Erie county, and the growth of its population — lying, as it does, at the foot of the great lakes, and a great railroad and canal center — you must realize that we have a great number of paupers, and that it would be impossible for a superintendent to investigate every case.

By our system we can keep our expenses down, and by the aid of two good ladies, Mrs. Dean, a Protestant, and Mrs. Lane, a Catholic, who are our county agents that we have hired by the year, and, by the aid of our standing committee, do justice to the children of the poor.

Mrs. Dean and Mrs. Lane are here to-day. They have each written a paper which they have requested me to read, and I will now do so.

MRS. LANE'S PAPER.

There is nothing which proves the truly Christian advancement of our country more than the increasing unselfish demand made by families for orphan children to be taken into the household to be cared for, educated and loved. It is a good and comforting thought to know that in all the mad rush for wealth and power there are some who find time to stop, seek out and interest themselves in the orphan. And it is doubly comforting to know that the number of these unselfish ones has been wonderfully increased this last year by thousands the country over, who have learned that "half is better than the whole."

You ask, "Are all families that adopt children so disinterested?" Yes, for if they wish to adopt a child they must promise to send the child to school and care for him in sickness and in health as if he were their own child. They sign papers to that effect, and the child is carefully watched over by the agent after he has been placed in the home, and if the family break their promise in any way the child is taken from them. Of course, if the family wishes some one for a servant, adoption is out of the question. They are shown girls and boys over 17 who are anxious to get places for wages. These girls and boys are also looked after in a kind sort of a way, to see that they are done right by and to encourage them to do their duty to their employer. Of the 212 children which I have placed out for wages 120 were girls, from 16 to 18 years of age, and ninety-two were boys, from 15 to 18 years of age. I have found, with very few exceptions, these young bread-winners to be diligent and grateful. A kind word will work wonders with these poor children who are thus thrown on their own resources. I encourage them to come to me and tell me all about themselves, and I only wish that those who think the days of heroes are over could come into my little office and hear some of these children's stories; they would soon see that there are numbers of industrious, patient, self-sacrificing little men and women who are willing to work hard and deprive themselves that an invalid sister may be better provided for, or a smaller brother cared for and sent to school.

One of my boys, a little lad of about 16, came to see me the other night. "I came to tell you I got 'a raise,' to-day; and I heard you were going to give my sister Susie away, and there are only the four of us left—Susie and my two little brothers and myself—and Susie is the only sister we have, and she is past 14 now; so I thought maybe I would get another raise before long, and Susie could keep house for us and we could all be together again." "I'll tell you, my little man, what we will do," I replied, "you can give the asylum a little every week to help the county pay Susie's board, and I will see that Susie will be your housekeeper in a year or so." Imagine the courage; willing to work for four, and only 16 years old. Only those who have seen happy families broken up can realize the meaning of that little fellow's "we will all be together again."

I have now 1,974 children to watch over, 1,762 being children I have adopted into homes. The other 212 being the girls and boys placed out for wages. Then, too, there are the 408 mothers placed out in families, with their infants.

This branch of the work demands an increasing amount of attention and thought, and it is one in which I am heartily interested. My ten years' experience has taught me that there is but one way to deal with this child problem, and that is to encourage the mother to keep her child, to work and care for it. I have found fifty-two places for these mothers this year. Of course, they receive a little less wages because of the privilege of keeping their children, but by securing the co-operation of the families these women were made to feel that their infants were a sacred trust that they must personally guard and protect. The result has been very satisfactory; in fact, I know it always will be so. I do all in my power to persuade the mothers to keep and love their children, and it is only after all other means have failed that I am willing to take the child and place it in a home when it has a mother to protect it, for I think the child, in all its weak helplessness, is a giant protector for its unfortunate mother.

I am a firm believer in the miracles worked by mother-love.

MRS. DEAN'S PAPER.

Acting upon the advice of Mrs. McPherson, now of Bath, N. Y., Erie county appointed its first county agent in 1879. This lady had charge of both the Roman Catholic and Protestant dependent children living in Erie county. How the agent's work has grown within the last thirteen years the following statistics will clearly show. It has grown with the city's growth, and its beneficent results can not be overestimated.

The first year of the work forty-seven Protestant and nineteen Roman Catholic children were placed in permanent homes; the second, fifty-nine Protestant and eighty-three Roman Catholic; the third, the agent was appointed for the Roman Catholic children, thus giving Erie county two agents, where formerly there had been but one, whose duty it was to find homes for these dependent children.

Through the two agencies 3,328 children have been placed in good homes. In 1892 homes were secured for 482 children and ninety mothers with their babies. This has relieved Erie county of an expense of \$32,840.

In 1879 Erie county paid to its several institutions, not including the almshouse, of course, \$47,987.54. The city had then a population nearly one-third less than in 1892, in which year the county paid to these same institutions \$17,885.89, a decrease of nearly two-thirds since 1879.

It is unnecessary to repeat this year what has been told you so often before, of how delightful much of this work is to us. We see the future welfare of these little ones, both spiritual and social, secured to them. Too much can not be said in praise of Mrs. McPherson's far-seeing thought for the future of the children when she suggested the present plan of action. I do not think it was the saving to the tax-payers alone that prompted the suggestion; rather the love in her heart for her fellow-men. Her experience as matron of orphan asylums gave her an insight into the needs of the little ones, and after wise and careful study she suggested this plan which has resulted so beneficially to tax-payers and dependent children alike.

We began to build up this work from the foundation. Each year, as it has become greater, we have had to consider the condition of the mother as well as the child. She, too, has become a dependent, and a far more difficult case to handle than has her babe. She has a mind of her own, and a mind that is firmly made up in regard to her immediate future. Judicious and conscientious work is required in order to gain the best results for county finances and for social benefits to both mother and child. With this end in view we advertise for homes in the country for mother and child, with the understanding that the mother is willing to work for a moderate remuneration for the sake of keeping her baby. But this desire to retain the child is almost always imaginary on the part of the agent; for in the majority of cases the mother is quite unwilling to go anywhere with her little one, and the going is almost compulsory. Three days' notice in the papers brings all the answers we desire. The home for mother and child is found, and then our trouble begins. We are forced to use all our powers of persuasion; our views are given in corridor and nursery of almshouse and of hospital to induce the mothers to go with their little ones to the homes we have provided for them, there to regain their own self-respect and to secure the future of their children.

The homes offered the mothers are good homes, where kind-hearted people are willing to make mother and child members of the family; where the erring mother is treated with consideration, her unfortunate past overlooked, her baby an object of love and care, and in return for this she receives moderate compensation for her services, which are not hard or unpleasant. Surely you would think the mother would be grateful for such a home, where she could lead a good and useful life, where she could learn to love her baby; for she has to learn to love it. Maternal love has no place in her heart until she acquires it by long association with her little one. This mother-love is the first step toward reform.

The home influence, where others show an interest in the sinning mother and her baby, especially the latter, often shows her that the little helpless infant is something to love and cherish. This love, once awakened, lasts forever, because of its purity, and has an influence for good over the mother's future life. But mothers who are willing to sacrifice everything for the sake of their babies are the exception rather than the rule. I do not mean the dependent mothers of legitimate children, but the class that fill our almshouses and the maternity wards of our hospitals.

I trust some action will be taken in this matter, some action which will tend toward the diminishing of this class of county dependents. To me it seems as necessary as providing for the children; for the mothers are quite as incapable of caring for themselves, often, as are the helpless infants. A repetition of their first offense is no unusual thing, and should receive most radical treatment. Until some means is devised to remedy this peculiar feature of the case, to materially diminish the number in this class of county dependents, we can not expect any great decrease in the expense.

After what is known as the Children's Law, chapter 173, Laws of 1875, requiring that all dependent children over 3 years* of age should be removed from the poorhouses, and that such

* By an amendment of this law the age limit was reduced from three to two years.

children should not be admitted into those places thereafter, went into operation, there was no marked increase of dependent children in the asylums throughout the State down to October, 1881; but from that time on to October, 1892, the increase in these institutions was very large. It is a noteworthy fact, however, that in Erie county, owing to the adoption of the plan of employing county agents to co-operate with the asylums in finding homes for children and placing them in families, there were only fifteen more children in the asylums in October, 1892, than there were in October, 1875, notwithstanding there was an increase in the population of the county during that interval of 149,426.

Evangelical Lutheran St. John's Orphan Home.

(Buffalo.)

The St. John's Orphan Home was incorporated in 1865. It was founded by the members of the German Evangelical Lutheran St. John's Church, under the leadership of their pastor, Rev. Christian Volz. The affairs of the corporation are managed by a board of nine trustees, of which Rev. J. Brezing is director; Conrad Maihemer, secretary, and Jacob Ruman, treasurer. The work for children is carried on in two establishments; that for girls at 280 Hickory street, and that for boys on a farm at Sulphur Springs.

The expenditure for both departments during the fiscal year ending August first was \$10,363, and the receipts about the same. Last year the sum of \$800 was voted by the board of supervisors towards compensating the home for the care and work done for county children. For eighteen years previous the institution received no compensation for dependent children placed under its care by the county authorities. Children are usually kept in the institution until they reach the age of 16, and sometimes even longer; but the county declines to pay for them during so long a period. They are customarily placed out without indenture or adoption in the families of members of the congregation.

THE HICKORY STREET HOME.

This department was visited September seventh. It was under the immediate charge of Sister Emily Buck, a former inmate of the home, who prepared herself for the work by going to Bavaria and graduating as a deaconess of the German Lutheran church from the mother house, situated at Neuendettelsau. Sister Emily is aided by a teacher and her assistant, and a matronly care-taker of the smaller children. There were under care forty-three girls, ranging in age from 2 to 16 years; also four little boys under 6 years of age.

The main building is a two-story frame structure, formerly the residence of the much-revered pastor, Frank H. Guenther. In the rear of this is a plain three-story edifice. Plans have been prepared for erecting, the coming year, a three-story building in place of the wooden one at a cost of about \$35,000. This addition is much needed, the old building being too small and inconvenient for present uses. Some additional land has been purchased to afford the children a larger playground. Water is supplied from the city, and connection is had with the city sewers. The buildings are heated by hot air and lighted by city gas. There are outside fire-escapes from each of the upper floors. The bathroom and lavatories are supplied with both hot and cold water in pipes.

A school is maintained on the premises, which is under the Department of Public Instruction. The children are instructed in both English and German. There were twenty girls in the school-room, and they went through arithmetical and other exercises very creditably. They also sang in English a greeting song, "Good Morning," and in German, "The Ackermann" (the farmer). The children are taught to sew, knit and do general housework. All the work is done by hand. The girls dress in uniform. In addition to their regular meals the children have a lunch of bread and apples or other fruit at 10 o'clock a. m., and of bread and molasses at 3 o'clock p. m. The bread was examined and found to be of excellent quality.

Summer and winter clothing is bountifully supplied, that not in use being carefully folded away in separate compartments in the clothesrooms. The children were tidily dressed, cleanly in

their persons, and appeared modest, cheerful and happy. There had been no case of sickness in the home for a year and a half previous.

The house is plainly but comfortably furnished, and was found to be well aired, clean and in good order.

THE SULPHUR SPRINGS HOME.

The home for boys was established in 1868, subsequent to the establishment of the home on Hickory street, in which both boys and girls were at first received. It is under the immediate charge of Rev. Henry Merz. He is assisted by his wife, who was formerly a deaconess in Germany, and was especially trained for this kind of work. They are designated as the house father and the house mother, and are assisted by a lady teacher in the school and four maids in the domestic department. There is also a farmer.

The estate embraces 105 acres. The building is of brick and has accommodation for 125 boys. It is supplied with water from Buffalo creek, which is forced by a steam pump at the creek to a tank in the attic, having a capacity for 100 barrels. There are, besides, two rain-water cisterns, the water from which is used in laundrying; water for drinking purposes is supplied from a well. The heating is by means of coal stoves, and the lighting is by kerosene lamps. The closets are outside the building and have vaults beneath them. There are no fire-buckets in the halls, nor are there any outside fire-escapes. There are ropes on each side of the building, however, reaching from the dormitories to the ground, which are intended for use should a fire occur.

The institution was visited December eighth, at which time there were forty-nine boys. With the exception of two boys under 5 years of age, the ages of the children ranged from 5 to 16 years.

The family principle is here carried out. As I entered the dining-room with the house father, the members of the household were at supper. At one table were sitting the superintendent's family, with the maids and the farmer. At other tables, some large and some small, the boys were sitting, classified as to their ages. The meal consisted of stewed beef with gravy, boiled

potatoes, bread and apple-butter, coffee and tea. For dinner on this day were served corned beef cooked with cabbage, beef soup with rice, boiled potatoes, coffee and bread; the larger boys had butter. The breakfast was made up of farina, cooked in milk and served with milk and sugar, bread, syrup and coffee; the working boys had butter with their bread. In the winter there is a scarcity of milk, and for this reason the children have tea at supper instead of milk. In the summer season milk is supplied to all who desire it. The house mother said that meat or fish is served every day and sometimes twice a day. Breakfast is changed so as to give oatmeal and milk and coffee and fried cakes every two or three times a week. An extra dinner is served on Sundays, usually of roast pork, macaroni prepared with butter, and vegetables; also either pudding or pie, usually alternating, and fruit of some kind when plenty. At supper are served cold meat, cake and coffee. The bread, baked in a brick oven, was of excellent quality. Food of the same kind and variety as that for the children was served at the family table.

The boys are instructed, among other things, in farming, gardening, taking care of stock and house-cleaning. In the school-room, which is well lighted and furnished with patent desks, there is an organ upon which the house father and his daughter instruct the boys in music.

In the linen-closets the linen was neatly and accurately folded. In the clothesrooms the clothes of the children were well taken care of, and the stores in the storeroom were orderly arranged and preserved with care. Good housekeeping prevailed throughout, and it was manifest that thorough preparatory training of women through organized sisterhoods is of great benefit to the beneficiaries of institutions of this character.

The boys were comfortably clothed, appeared to be well cared for, and seemed to be imbued with the frank and loving spirit of a home.

The lavatory arrangements are somewhat defective, and there should be a better system of water-closets.

Numerous improvements have been made in the house and about the place during the past few months, and further changes are in progress.

The Fitch Crèche and Training School for Nursery Maids.

(159 Swan street, Buffalo.)

This institution, which, through the admirable exhibit of its system, attracted so much attention at the World's Fair, occupies a two-story brick building, formerly a private residence, but now the property of the Charity Organization Society. The building was given to the society by Benjamin Fitch. The Crèche is not separately incorporated. It is managed by an advisory board, subject to a committee of the Charity Organization Society. Miss Maria M. Love is chairman of this board; Mrs. Henry A. Crane, secretary; and Miss E. B. S. Wood, treasurer. The Crèche is visited daily by Dr. DeWitt H. Sherman, who serves gratuitously. In case of emergency the physician of the Fitch Emergency Hospital, next door, may be called.

This plan for reducing the social burden of the city was first suggested by Rev. S. H. Gurteen, and was taken up by Miss Love, who, under the auspices of the Charity Organization Society, in 1880, raised the sum of \$2,800 by subscription for beginning the work. The Crèche was opened in 1880. It aims to provide a day home for working women's children who are of legitimate birth and under 8 years of age, in order that the mothers may become bread-winners. It has a capacity for sixty children. The average daily number under care is about thirty-five. The house is under the immediate charge of a matron. There is a head nurse for the children, with a band of eight nursery maids in training; also a cook and laundress.

The Crèche is opened for the reception of children a quarter before 7 o'clock a. m. On admission, all the clothes of the children who are less than 2 1/2 years of age, are changed. The older ones are provided with clean aprons. The infants are bathed daily, the older ones twice a week.

Only sterilized milk is used for babies. These are fed by means of the bottle at intervals of from two and a half to four hours, according to their age. About one-third of the children inmates belong to this class. From the time they leave the bottle they are fed four times a day. Children from 2 1/2 to 7 years are fed three

times a day and have meat once a day. Some of the children under 21-2 have broth.

For the older children there is a kindergarten in the morning from 9 to 12. They then have dinner, take a little nap from half an hour to an hour, then they don their hats or caps, and all are sent out to play in charge of nursery maids. None are left for a moment alone and without supervision at any age. At 4 o'clock the children are brought in. Such as have passed the Crèche age, but are not older than 10 years, are admitted and sent in class to the public school. They have their dinner and tea.

If any child shows signs of illness it is immediately isolated; a physician, if not present, is sent for, and the mother notified.

The mother is charged only five cents a day for each child; besides, when she comes for it in the evening, she can have a cup of tea and some bread or crackers, if she likes. The average daily cost of supporting each child is thirty-four cents. The expenses of the Crèche are met by a private subscription through the Charity Organization Society.

The nursery is provided with little rimmed tables, having clean sand upon them, for some of the children to play with. There are also a pound for some, baby-jumpers, little cribs, curtained cradles, snowy linen, and all the bewildering paraphernalia necessary to the health, comfort, exercise and entertainment of babyhood.

Four nurses are admitted to training every six months. Previous to entering they are subjected to a physical examination. They must have good health and a good public school education. Lectures are given on subjects pertaining to the care of children, especially on the preparation of their food, every Wednesday by a physician or by a trained hospital nurse. When the next complement of nurses enters the lectures are repeated, so that when the examination is reached a graduate has had the benefit of two full series of lectures and a year's training. She must have a standing of seventy-five to entitle her to a certificate.

The number of admissions at the Crèche during the nine months ending October 1, 1893, was 6,030, and work was furnished to ninety-nine mothers. The expenditures for the Crèche during this period amounted to \$3,145.94.

Miss Love says: "The problem that now confronts us is to provide for children of the working people, who are older than 7 years. There should be a larger playground, with some system of supervision, combined with industrial training, that would be both pleasant and profitable to the children. They should be kept off the streets until they acquire a love of employment and the habit of working. Their characters are largely formed from 12 to 15 years, and it is during this period that they are easily influenced. It seems a pity to spend as much time as we do in reforming character instead of forming it."

Respecting the exhibit of the Crèche at the World's Fair, Miss Love says:

"While funny stories have been told, and jokes have been circulated, over 'checking the babies,' and hundreds have looked upon the Crèche as merely a temporary means of public comfort at the great Fair, the work of the Fitch Crèche has been well accomplished and the great underlying principle established that herein is a far-reaching provident scheme towards the prevention of pauperism in our new world.

"So forcibly has this been illustrated that Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Arkansas, Iowa, Michigan, Ohio, Dakota and Washington have all entered enthusiastically into the discussion of this work, and Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York have come to Buffalo to learn.

"More flattering to the pride of Buffalo, perhaps, will be the fact that Sweden and Germany are having full details of this three-fold enterprise taken back to them, while old Siam will carry back to far-off Asia the rules and regulations governing the Fitch Crèche with its kindergarten and training-school for nursery maids, with a view to the establishment of a similar institution amongst the Siamese.

"So the experiment entered upon by the Fitch Crèche in the children's building, because it so believed in the work it was doing, has proved a marvelous success, and has been an honor to the city of Buffalo, of which its citizens are scarcely conscious."

Fresh Air Mission of Buffalo.

The leading spirit in organizing this praiseworthy work for the benefit of the children of the poor in the hot summer months was Miss Alice Moore, who, with her Sunday-school class, co-operating with the Christian Endeavor Society of the Universalist Church, raised \$133.91, and with the sum sent 106 children into the country in the summer of 1888. In the spring of 1889, Mr. Daniel Rhodes, at Clarence Center, in Erie county, offered the free use of a cottage to the ladies, and sixty-six children were sent there and 366 to the families of farmers, at a total cost of \$706.69. In the following year, 1890, the mission was incorporated under the general statute. It has for its object the giving to the worthy poor, especially to poor children, free from infectious disease, and living in the city of Buffalo, the benefit and enjoyment of fresh air in the country. The same year a farm was purchased by the corporation about one and a half miles from Angola and thirty miles from Buffalo, on the shore of Lake Erie. The place had been a summer resort, and had a large frame house and barns and stables. The buildings were quickly altered to conform to their new use, and nearly 400 children were sent there in the summer of 1891; besides, a considerable number were sent direct to country homes. The property was named Ga-ose-ha, from the Indian word cradle. Since 1891, through the interest of the managers and the liberality of the citizens of Buffalo, the work has continued to prosper.

The means to sustain the Mission are raised entirely by voluntary contributions. Last summer little savings-bank boxes in the form of a cradle were distributed throughout the city in drug-stores, saloons, and other public places of business, and upwards of \$1,000 were raised in this manner.

During the past year a new departure has been made by establishing in a temporary structure on the lake beach a hospital for sick children and their mothers. It is proposed next year to erect a substantial one-story building for this purpose, plans for which, on the pavilion principle, have already been prepared.

P. H. Griffin is president of the board of managers of the mission; Frederick Almy, secretary and general superintendent;

Henry W. Sprague, treasurer; and Drs. De Witt H. Sherman and Irving M. Snow voluntarily give their services to this worthy charity.

German Evangelical Church Home.

(Forks Station on New York Central railway, near Buffalo.)

Incorporated 1877. Rev. F. Schelle, president; William Sinsel, secretary; Phil Debus, treasurer; and Henry Peters and John N. Smith, trustees.

The objects of this home are to provide for the physical and spiritual necessities of aged, indigent and helpless persons of German birth. Those not belonging to any church, as well as church members, are received. A charge is made according to the circumstances of the applicant. If wholly destitute, however, applicants are not denied admission.

The home building is a square, three-story, brick structure, situated in the township of Cheektowaga, about six miles from Buffalo. The real estate of the home embraces twenty-eight and one-half acres, upon which are grown hay, different kinds of cereals and a great variety of vegetables. Five milch cows and three horses are kept, besides other stock.

The institution is under the immediate charge of a house father and a house mother, who are directed by a managing board. Two housemaids are employed within doors and a man upon the farm.

At the date of my visit, December twenty-third, the inmates numbered twenty-seven, sixteen being men and eleven women. Their ages averaged close to 70 years. The ages of five ranged from 84 to 89 years. All the inmates were comfortably clothed, cleanly and appeared contented. The house was plainly furnished, but was well lighted and the rooms were well ventilated and in good order. From two to four persons occupy a room. The dining-room is a pleasant apartment, having a large bay window, which was filled with flowers. A room on the first floor is used for religious worship. In the smoking-room were six male inmates, one of whom was a cobbler, who was sitting on his bench, and another a tailor who was engaged in repairing clothes.

Water is supplied from a well and from two cisterns. One of these is a very large one in the basement. Outside water-closets are used. The building is heated by two furnaces. There are no outside fire-escapes. The arrangement of the narrow stairs within the building is such that the danger to life is imminent in case of fire. This defect is receiving consideration by the board of management.

There was no sickness in the house, nor suffering except from the natural infirmities of old age. The house was found to be clean, and the inmates and property of the institution appeared to be properly cared for.

The total number of inmates received during the year was eleven. Three were transferred to other institutions, two otherwise discharged, and five died.

The German Roman Catholic Orphan Asylum of Buffalo.

(Best street.)

This is a three-story brick building with a basement and two wings. The estate, including the park in front, embraces seventeen acres of land. The building has outside steps at either extremity for escape from fire. It is supplied on every floor with city water, is lighted by gas and heated by a hot-water system of piping.

The institution is managed by eighteen sisters of the Roman Catholic order of the Sisters of St. Francis; Sister Dionysia being sister superior. The sisters are aided in their work by two hired female assistants in the laundry, two in the dormitories, one in the dining-room and one in the nursery. There are, besides, a baker, a shoemaker, a gardener and an assistant having charge of the grounds and stables.

The asylum was visited September eighth. There were at that date 196 children, eighty-seven of whom were boys, and thirty of whom were nursery children of both sexes. Some of the children are boarded by relatives; others are committed by county superintendents of the poor. Of the latter there were 152.

Children are received from 2 years of age upwards. The majority of them were between the ages of 6 and 9 years. Formerly the rule was to keep the children until they were 12 years old, but they now stay until they get a common school education, and most of them are taken away by their relatives. Last year 126 children were received and 108 dismissed. For some, however, homes are found by the county agent, and the children are adopted into such. They are not indentured. The children adopted are mostly of the younger class, and such as relatives are not likely to interfere with. Sister Dionysia said: "For some of the boys, when 14 years old, we get places for them to work; some we have sent to the Working Boys' Home. The boys are really faithful and come back in after years to see us and talk of old times."

During the year ending September 30, 1893, twenty-two children had been adopted into families; seventy-nine were returned to parents or guardians; thirteen were otherwise discharged, and five died.

The dietary for the children was given as follows: "The usual breakfast is bread, butter and coffee. The usual dinner is soup, meat of some kind, potatoes, and some other kind of vegetable. On Wednesdays and Fridays they have fish instead of meat. The usual supper is bread, syrup and tea; sometimes gingerbread or some other kind of cake. The children have a lunch between meals—a piece of bread or biscuit." From the garden is supplied a variety of vegetables for the children's table. Five cows are kept on the place, but these only partially supply the milk required.

Respecting industries Sister Dionysia said: "Taking into account the time given to schooling, the children are not here long enough to learn much in this way. The girls, however, are taught plain sewing and the larger girls to make their own clothes. Some of the little girls can make nice dresses. The children help to make up the beds and do some other kinds of housework." Strips of rag carpet made in the institution were laid in the dormitories and linoleum in the halls.

The boys and girls were well dressed. The boys' hair was cut short, and the girls' was well combed and neatly arranged. In regard to dress Sister Dionysia said: "We dress our children in uniform, but I do not like it, and have advised a change, which I think will be made. I am sure that by giving the children their own choice in color, at least, they will take better care of their clothes."

There are two infirmaries, both of which can be isolated in case of need. In one of them were two little girls afflicted with eczema. There had been four deaths during the preceding year.

New mattresses were made for the entire house during the past summer. The pillows are made of feathers. Four of the dormitories have bedsteads with wooden slats; all the rest have woven-wire bottoms.

The school is under the Department of Public Instruction, and the teachers must be approved by that department. The school-rooms were well ventilated, and flowering plants were in the windows. In winter these are placed in all the rooms. As we entered the schoolrooms the children arose and greeted us in German.

The water-closets, baths and lavatories were found to be unsatisfactory in their construction and arrangement, and are believed to be unsanitary. It was officially stated that it had been decided to change all this and to introduce a new system of piping throughout the whole establishment, and that steps had already been taken to do this at an early date. It is also intended to place sufficient hose, attached to inside hydrants, to reach to the extremity of every floor. There is a steam laundry, with ample facilities for doing the work required.

The children were evidently receiving kind care and seemed much attached to the sisters, and the sisters seemed fond of them. The institution appeared orderly and deserving of commendation.

The Guard of Honor Library and Christian Institute.

(620 and 622 Washington street, Buffalo.)

The origin and development of this corporation furnishes a striking example of the good that may be accomplished by one disinterested person, actuated by lofty impulses, and unflin-

ingly pursuing her object through a series of years. The Guard of Honor originated in 1865 in a small Sunday-school class of boys, taught by Miss Charlotte Mulligan, in what was known, previous to its destruction, as the Wells Street Chapel, situated at the corner of Wells and Carroll streets. She began by inspiring her pupils with religious fervor, and by banding them together in Christian fellowship, with pledges to the observance of honorable principles. In 1868 she had widened her circle until it numbered about twenty-five boys. In the same year this Sunday-school class was incorporated under the title of the Guard of Honor.

The aims of the corporation, as set forth in its articles of incorporation, are the religious, moral and social culture of young men. In 1875, for the purpose of extending the religious and moral influence of the work, Miss Mulligan published a literary magazine, which was continued until 1886. In 1882, the society purchased a block forty feet wide and 200 feet deep, running from Main street through to Washington, the money to pay for which was raised by membership fees and by voluntary contributions. This property rapidly increasing in value, the way opened, in 1884, for securing a building by selling that half of the property lying on Main street, and using the proceeds towards erecting a building on Washington street, at a cost of \$25,000. In 1885 the name of the corporation was changed to its present title. The officers of the board of trustees are Charles Holzworth, president; Ralph Bowman, secretary; James Hall, financial secretary; and Thomas Grimshaw, treasurer.

The first floor of the Washington street building is rented for stores, the income from which nearly sustains the work of the society. On the second floor are three large rooms for conducting a Sunday-school and for meetings of the members of the society. The third floor is occupied by the superintendent's living-rooms, and bathrooms and billiard-rooms, etc., for members of the society. On the fourth floor are twenty-one rooms, in which free lodgings are given to men who are sent by citizens and occasionally by the police, and who are without means. There are also bathrooms, which they are required to use. On the fifth floor are sixteen rooms, which are rented to worthy persons for a dollar a

week, including the washing of bed linen. The free lodgings are limited to ten consecutive nights unless the privilege is extended by special permission of the house committee or trustees. Efforts are put forth by the society to help such as come under its notice to places where they may obtain remunerative work, and to influence them to their good by kindly counsel.

The society has an orchestra of forty-two musicians, made up from its members, the rehearsals of which are largely attended by the poor. The membership fee of the society is one dollar a year. The rules and requirements of the order are quite strict. Miss Mulligan says she has never known an active member in good and regular standing who has violated his word with his employer or who has disgraced himself. Since the work was first begun it is estimated that upwards of 14,000 workingmen have received its benefactions.

Gustavus Adolphus Orphans' Home.

(Jamestown.)

Incorporated 1883. Rev. C. O. Hultgren, president; Gustaf Anderson, secretary; C. A. Swanson, treasurer.

This institution, designed for homeless children of Swedish nationality, occupies an elevated and healthful site on the outskirts of Jamestown, with which it is in communication by electric cars. The asylum building is of brick and is three stories high. It is supplied with water from the city works. The grounds are improved by graveled walks and planting. The estate comprises eighty-seven acres.

The home is managed by a board of seven directors, elected by the New York Conference of the Scandinavian Lutheran Augustana Synod, and is under the immediate charge of Rev. Martin J. Englund, superintendent, whose wife assists as matron. There are a farmer, whose wife serves as cook, four female servants and a tailor.

The institution was visited July 19, 1893, at which time it contained twenty-nine girls and thirty boys. Children are received from babyhood up to 16 years of age, and may remain until

they are 18. One of the girls had passed the limit of asylum life, but was permitted to remain to complete her education. She was receiving instruction in typewriting, stenography, bookkeeping and music. The children attend the public school during the winter; in summer they are taught in the Swedish language at the home school. The girls are instructed in plain and fancy sewing, in knitting, and all kinds of domestic work, including cooking and laundrying. The larger boys work on the farm and in the garden in summer when not attending school. A party of boys were contentedly at work in the garden when I entered the grounds. Another party were having a jolly time making hay. A number of girls were picking berries. The farm lands are cultivated with a variety of crops suited to the needs of the institution. A goodly variety of vegetables is raised on the place for the use of the inmates of the home. There were eight cows and a large number of domestic fowls. No milk or butter is sold. The older lads assist in caring for the stock. Two of the boys having fine voices and not liking farm work, were taking music lessons in Jamestown. All the boys are taught by the tailor to sew on a button and to mend a garment.

The children were comfortably clad and the wardrobes were well supplied with clothing. All appeared healthy. The only death at the institution occurred in August, 1887.

The dormitories were well aired and clean, and the beds were comfortably made up. An adult sleeps in each night apartment with the children. There are no outside fire-escapes from the dormitories, and some should be supplied at once.

The library contained about 200 volumes of children's reading matter.

The institution was found to be orderly kept. Mutual confidence seemed to exist between the children and their superiors and an affectionate family spirit appeared to prevail.

Home for the Friendless.

(1500 Main street, Buffalo.)

This institution was incorporated in 1868. It formerly conducted its work on Seventh street, but removed to its present commodious quarters on Main street in 1887.

The home is governed by a board of managers representing the different Protestant churches of the city. Mrs. F. H. Root is honorary president of the board; Mrs. J. C. Bryant, president; Miss Bird, secretary; and Mrs. George W. Parkhurst, treasurer. Dr. Irving M. Snow serves gratuitously, responding to night as well as day calls.

The building consists of a three-story brick structure, with a capacious wing attached. The house is supplied with city water, is lighted by gas, heated by steam supplemented by natural gas, and is connected with the city sewerage system. Hot and cold water in pipes is supplied to the baths and lavatories.

The house is under the immediate charge of Mrs. Sarah S. Dugdale, matron, who is assisted by a practical nurse, a cook with assistant, two laundresses, a dining-maid, and an upstairs-maid. At the date of my visit, September seventh, it contained eighty-one inmates, nine of whom were transient. All aged worthy Protestant women are eligible to permanent admission. The price for life admission is \$250, although many unable to pay this are received at less. Mrs. Dugdale said that there were many more applicants on the list for admission than could possibly be received. There is a separate department, with sleeping-rooms and dining-room for what are termed transients, or such women and girls as are out of work and have no abiding place. If they do not succeed in finding work they are permitted to stay until the board meet, when the ladies endeavor to find places for them. At times there are but three or four of these, and at others there are ten or twelve. It is not practicable to determine the character of transients, but women in apparent distress who make a reasonably fair statement are received into this department. It is literally a home for the friendless, and is conducted on the broad principle that many unworthy should be benefited rather than that one person should suffer. Transients do not come in contact with the home family.

The permanent inmates are mostly so aged and infirm that they can do but little more than take care of their rooms and render

some assistance in housework. Some do a little fancy work, which is offered for sale to visitors. The number of permanent inmates received during the year was nine, and the number of transient beneficiaries seventy. Situations were found for twenty-four persons, eleven were returned to Canada, fifteen were returned to their friends or homes, eight left without permission, ten were transferred to other institutions and five died.

The dining-room is well lighted and furnished, and is an attractive apartment. Its tinted walls were hung with pictures, potted plants were in the windows, as also a parrot and a canary bird in cages. The chairs were comfortable ones, and the tables were laid with clean, white cloths and brightened with silver-plated ware. The carpet and the rugs were made by the inmates, and the sideboard and other furniture were given by friends of the home. Each of the permanent inmates has a room to herself. These are cozy little retreats, having comfortable beds and a variety of furniture and embellishments, including pictures, carpets, bric-a-brac, flowers, etc. Some of the rooms, fitted up by friends of the inmates, are more elaborately furnished than others; but all were clean, orderly kept and cheerful. Some of the inmates, sitting in easy chairs, were reading in the sitting-room, the tables of which were well supplied with the leading magazines of the day. There is, besides, an entertaining library. The parlor of the home, in which are an organ and a piano, is used as a chapel. Religious services are held here on Sunday afternoons, ministers of different denominations voluntarily conducting the service.

In one of the rooms was a talkative old lady, 97 years of age, who, it was said, had not a friend in the world. In a small press in her room were many articles of the nature of toys, which had been given her by visitors. These were shown with childish delight.

A look through this clean and well-ordered institution leads one to feel that the condition of old age may be made not only tolerable, but one of cheerful contentment.

Ingleside Home.

(70 Harvard place, Buffalo.)

Incorporated 1869. Mrs. W. A. Wilkes, president; Mrs. C. E. Walbridge, secretary; Mrs. H. H. Otis, treasurer.

The objects of the institution are to open the way for a return to usefulness and respectability, and to the entering upon a Christian life of girls and women who have left the paths of virtue. It is under the management of a board of forty-six ladies. Miss Ellen M. Broadbooks is superintendent. She is assisted by a nurse, a laundress and a janitor, or outside man. Women physicians alternate every three months in voluntarily serving the inmates.

The institution was formerly located at 527 Seneca street. In 1884 the home was removed to its present more quiet and desirable quarters. The main building, a three-story brick structure, was formerly a spacious private residence. To this has been added a rear extension, the whole having a capacity for fifty-five inmates. The grounds are inclosed with a close board fence.

The buildings are supplied with city water and connected with the city sewers. They are lighted by kerosene and heated partly by steam and partly by stoves. There is but one associate dormitory. Most of the inmates have each their own room, and visiting from room to room is not allowed. Classification of the inmates is effected to the greatest extent practicable with the existing building, but some changes and extensions are necessary to a perfect system. The hospital has a capacity for ten beds. The large parlor, in which are a piano and organ, is used for chapel purposes. Sunday services are held here morning and evening. Prayers are held in the dining-room in the morning and in the parlor in the evening. Religious worship is also held on Friday evenings.

The institution was visited September seventh. It then contained twenty-six inmates, a smaller number than it has in winter. Included in the population were five babies less than 3 months old. At the date of December seventh the number of inmates had increased to thirty adults and nine babies. A good many of the girls, the superintendent said, leave in the spring to take situa-

tions, or do work that has been found for them by the managers. The number of persons received during the year was 110.

The following information respecting the work was given by Miss Broadbooks:

"Our work is among a class of women many of whom are addicted to drink, and they not infrequently come back to us. Our doors are never closed upon them. When we can, we get them to pledge themselves to stay with us six months; but a good many will not do this, and they only remain until they are thoroughly recruited. In respect to the number that have been saved since my connection with the institution from March last, there have been seven conversions that I believe are genuine, and I think there have been in and out, during that time, about forty. Besides those that have made an open profession of religion, there are some who find after admission here that a proper life is better for them than the one they have been living, and become good women. In finding situations for the girls the persons taking them are always informed respecting their character, and they are received in such places for the purpose of helping them. We never put the girls in homes where spirituous liquors are used, and never in any other than Christian homes. There are inmates here now who are in the way of becoming mothers. Since March last there have been eleven babies born here. Mothers are required to keep their children when they can possibly do so, and we endeavor to keep up the motherly feeling. Four out of the eleven babies born here were taken away by their mothers. A mother is required to stay in the home three months after the birth of her child. If she has any maternal affection she will manifest it in that time and will not give up the child.

"Some of our inmates are committed by the courts and others come voluntarily. For county cases we receive one dollar and fifty cents a week. Our industries include laundrying, sewing, and domestic work. We find hand laundrying more acceptable to customers, and it is a great deal better for the inmates. All that are able to work we employ from 8 in the morning till 11.30 and from 1 o'clock to 5.30. We do the very best of work.

"Our dietary consists of plain, substantial, wholesome food, with plenty of milk. We have coffee and tea and bread and butter

for breakfast. For dinner we have meat, the best I can buy, two kinds of vegetables, and dessert two or three times a week. For supper we have tea, bread and butter, usually with warmed up potatoes, also fruit of some kind. We give lessons in cooking. There are so many of the girls that do not know how to cook nor understand doing housework that we endeavor to instruct them thoroughly in doing all kinds of domestic work systematically.

"I was formerly matron of the Genesee Wesleyan Seminary. There the work was very different from here, but human nature is much alike the world over. I find my girls here respond to kindness quite as readily as did the students there. It is essential for the welfare of society that the work should be done. There is much that is discouraging about it, and there is much that is encouraging."

Respecting what has been accomplished by the home its earnest president says: "I have been in the work from the beginning here, and, with a few others most deeply interested in it, have, at times, endeavored to estimate results. We feel that we can safely say that one-third of those who come under our care are reformed and saved, and can reasonably hope that one-half of those who come to us are truly led into the better life; but we must leave the results with Him for whom we labor. I think I voice the opinion of the managers when I say that our only hope of permanent reformation is in their conversion. The aspect of our work just now is that of many young girls led astray by the seducer, and we are having evident tokens of God's blessing in our labors for these poor ones. Love follows pity, and love is what they need, with the blessed truths of the gospel. To me, the work is always, on the whole, encouraging, though we often have reason to feel that we are wrestling with principalities and powers. Without the faith that worketh by love and the power of God working through His feeble instruments little could be accomplished, but with that the blessing and the result are great."

The institution appeared to be in good order and its affairs judiciously and humanely administered.

The following is a copy of the rules of the home, to which each inmate is required to subscribe on entering:

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
RULES FOR INGLESIDE HOME.

- 1.—Implicit obedience to the matron.
- 2.—Attendance at family worship, and at all the services of the home, except when excused by the matron on account of illness or any special circumstances requiring their presence elsewhere.
- 3.—Neatness and cleanliness in dress and person required under all circumstances, also perfect order in the apartments.
- 4.—Every one must behave with courtesy in word and action towards all in the home. No improper language, tale bearing, or impure conversation can be tolerated. Any infringement of this rule is to be reported to the house committee.
- 5.—All requests or complaints of any kind must first be made through the matron. All letters sent out from, or coming to the home for the inmates, must be read by the matron before they are delivered to those to whom they are addressed.
- 6.—All who are admitted to the home must remain six months unless with the consent and approval of the house committee they may be sooner restored to relatives or friends.
- 7.—No inmate shall leave the home on any temporary absence except by permission of the matron.
- 8.—The inmates may not remain in their rooms after the chamber work is done, except in the case of sickness, but shall go to whatever department of the work of the home they may have been assigned.
- 9.—All the girls who are able should be at each meal within five minutes of the ringing of the second bell. Those who from illness are unable to be present should send a message to the matron to that effect.
- 10.—All the girls who work in the sewing-room are while there under the care and supervision of the assistant matron, and are expected to yield to her a respectful obedience.
- 11.—The girls must not visit in each other's rooms, or enter them at night, except in case of sickness.
- 12.—All the inmates who are able shall do their own washing, according to instructions received from the matron.

13.—All in the home must expect to be employed during the working hours of the day. If any have times of waiting they are expected to resort to the home sitting-room or nursery, and not to their own rooms without permission.

14.—The girls are allowed half an hour for recreation after dinner, to be spent as they desire, either out-of-doors, in the halls, sitting-room, nursery or alone in their own rooms.

15.—All the inmates of the home shall retire at the ringing of the bell at 9 o'clock. All lights shall be extinguished at 9.30, except in cases of severe illness. The nurses in the hospital ward, on account of extra duties, are allowed light until 10 o'clock.

16. Any woman admitted into the home in a pregnant condition must remain (Providence permitting) three months after her confinement. She must nurse or care for her babe for that time.

17.—Every girl or woman on entering the home is required to take a full bath and to change her entire clothing. The matron may permit delay in case of sickness or other inability, but the rule must be enforced as soon as it is wise and practicable.

The matron of Ingleside is required to read these rules to each person upon their entering the home and see that they are enforced; also to obtain their signature.

Signatures.—Acknowledging my own weakness, but desirous of being helped to lead a better life, I agree to observe and keep the above rules.

(Signature.)

The Lockport Home for the Friendless.

This home for children was incorporated in 1871. Its financial and business affairs are controlled by a board of nine trustees, of which John Hodge is president, and J. A. Ward, secretary and treasurer. Its internal affairs are managed by a board of twenty-five ladies, of which Mrs. J. T. Bellah is president; Mrs. C. L. Hoag is first directress; Mrs. W. T. Rogers, corresponding secretary, and Mrs. E. Ashley Smith, recording secretary.

For many years the work of the home was carried on in a large frame building, once a private residence, on High street, in the

city of Lockport. In 1892 a fine estate, embracing seventy-eight acres of land, was purchased on the borders of the city and the inmates of the home were transferred thereto. The property formerly belonged to ex-Governor Hunt, and the substantial two-story stone edifice upon it was built by the Governor for his private residence. It has broad porches, wide halls, airy rooms, a large conservatory, and is well adapted to the uses of the home. At the entrance to the grounds is a porter's lodge or dwelling-house for the outside man of the place.

There are a large apple orchard of choice fruit, a variety of trees bearing small fruit, an extensive garden, and rich pasture and meadow land for the cows. The house stands amid park-like grounds and has an imposing appearance. The children and the effects of the home were removed here in September, 1892. A line of electric cars has been projected to the property and workmen were laying the track at the time of my visit, October sixteenth. Water is supplied from the city water-works by the Holley system. The buildings are heated by steam and lighted by gas made on the place. They are in telephone communication with the city. A proper system of sewerage has not yet been undertaken.

The house is in the immediate charge of Mrs. Sarah Althen, who, for three years previous, was connected with the Rochester Orphan Asylum. She is assisted indoors by a school teacher, two nurses, a seamstress, a cook and a laundress. At the time of my visit there were fifty-one children, eight of whom were under 2 years of age. Their average age was about 6 1-2 years.

Numerous changes have been made to adapt the house to its present use, and improvements are still progressing. Bedsteads with woven-wire mattresses are taking the place of those with iron strap bottoms, the majority now being of the former kind. New carpets, pictures and other furniture are supplanting the old, and the interior of the house is assuming a bright and cheerful aspect. The dormitories were clean and well aired, the closets, store-rooms and cellars were in good order, the house was generally clean, and the children appeared to be receiving good care.

Notwithstanding the changes that have been made, much remains to be done. The house is filled beyond its capacity, and needs extension in the direction of providing further dormitory, bathing, laundry and closet accommodation. It should also have a separate, inexpensive building for school purposes and for indoor exercise and recreation. The kitchen and laundry are also too contracted for an institution of this size and the latter should be removed, in which case the steam and laundry odors would not permeate the house. The outside closets are not sufficiently secluded and flush closets should be in more general use within doors. A walk common to both girls and boys now leads to a large privy in the rear of the building, which is divided by a partition and is entered at opposite ends by either sex. Beneath there is a cesspool or vault. If outside closets are used there should be a separate one for each sex, and widely divergent walks should lead to them.

It is customary for this institution to place out each year about the same number of children as are received. This year it has fallen somewhat below this rule, it having received sixty-seven during the year preceding September 30, 1893, and discharged but forty-four during the same period. Twenty-six of these were indentured and eighteen were restored to parents or guardians. It is believed that the home would be still more useful should it adopt a more active placing-out system. A few of the children, including two that are feeble-minded, are defective and are not eligible to adoption in families. All are committed by the county authorities.

The New York State Institution for the Blind.

(Batavia.)

Incorporated by special act, chapter 587, Laws of 1865, and amended by subsequent acts, chapter 744, Laws of 1867; chapter 616, Laws of 1872; chapter 463, Laws of 1873; chapter 567, Laws of 1875. By the act of 1875 the counties of New York, Kings, Queens, Suffolk and Richmond were authorized to send their blind children to the New York Institution for the Blind. From

the remaining fifty-five counties blind children of sound mind, of school age, and capable of receiving instruction, are sent to Batavia to be educated.

The institution is governed by a board of nine trustees, who are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The present board consists of the following persons: D. J. Bissell, LeRoy, president; Arthur Ferris, Batavia, treasurer; Nelson Bogue, Batavia; Andrew W. Skelley, Batavia; F. G. Moulton, Batavia; F. Park Lewis, M. D., Buffalo; Mrs. Wolcott J. Humphrey, Warsaw; Jacob Whitman, Wayland, and Jasper Starr, Pavilion. Levant C. McIntyre, of Batavia, is the secretary of the board.

The institution is under the immediate charge of Frederick R. Place, superintendent, who is aided by a corps of teachers in the literary, musical and industrial departments. There is also an instructor in the kindergarten. Dr. Ward B. Whitcomb, of Batavia, is the attending physician, and Dr. Wheelock Rider, of Rochester, the ophthalmic examiner.¹

The institution was visited September twentieth and December twenty-third. At the first-named date it was just opening for the new term, and had 130 pupils listed. At the last-named date the number, as near as could be ascertained, was 135. The number of new pupils received during the year ending September 30, 1893, was twenty-five. There has been no material change in the system of instruction during 1893. This was fully described in the report I submitted to the board at the close of 1892. At the time of my last visit the superintendent was confined to his bed by typhoid fever, and there was no one having general and immediate charge of the institution, nor was there any house-keeper or matron in actual service. I did not find any unsanitary condition about the asylum that would seem to give rise to so dangerous a disease as that with which the superintendent was afflicted. There had been three cases of scarlet fever during the year, none of which proved fatal. No death had occurred during the preceding two years.

The means of warming the hospital for contagious diseases are unsatisfactory, and the means of ventilating insufficient. The

water-closets are outside of the building and are unsuited to their uses. There is no suitable provision for disinfecting clothing. All these defects should receive attention and be remedied.

The children were well clothed and appeared cleanly. Each pupil has a separate towel, comb and tooth-brush. The towels and bed linen are changed weekly. Bedsteads with iron strap bottoms are still in general use, except in the infirmary wards, where they have been supplanted by those having woven-wire bottoms. It would seem that the old-fashioned style of bedsteads should give way throughout to the modern and more comfortable kind.

A statement having appeared in the "Daily News," of Batavia, on December twenty-first, that some of the pupils had complained that they were supplied with poor food, in view of the importance of such complaint, I felt it my duty to take especial pains during my visit, two days later, to make particular inquiry into the truthfulness of this complaint. In making the inquiry I selected, without previous intimation to superiors of my purpose, six pupils, three boys and three girls, and interviewed them apart and privately, asked them the following questions: "Are you treated kindly?" "Do you get enough to eat?" "Is the food good?" The first pupil, a boy, answered affirmatively to all the questions. The second, a girl, answered affirmatively to the first, and to the second and third she said that she got plenty to eat, but did not always eat it; did not like the meat and potatoes; thought the food was now as good as it had been all the while she had been there, which was eight or nine terms. The third pupil, a girl in her seventh term, said she was treated kindly and had no cause to complain, except that she did not get enough to eat of things she liked, and the potatoes were cooked so that she could not eat them; the bread was pretty good; butter not very good; meat very tough and not done nice. "We have warm potatoes for supper now and like them better. We did not have them a year ago. The food is about the same as a year ago, except that we have warmed-up potatoes for supper. The first year I was here it was a little better than it is now. Then we had a little poultry and such things as the officers get." The fourth pupil, a girl in her fifth term, said she was treated kindly, had no cause to complain,

got enough to eat; did not care much anyway; what she had to eat was pretty good. The fifth pupil, a boy in his ninth term, said he was kindly treated, had enough to eat, thought it pretty good, but not like home. "Sometimes potatoes are not cooked enough, but are better lately than they have been. I think the food is as good as it used to be, but the suppers are always slim. We want warm potatoes and a warm supper." The sixth pupil had been at school between one and two years; said he was treated well; got enough to eat; food was good. "I have no complaint to make about anything and like to be here."

The dietary on December twenty-third was as follows: For breakfast, fried beefsteak, bread and butter, boiled potatoes, coffee (Java and Rio mixed in equal quantities), and milk to all desiring it; for dinner, roast beef, boiled potatoes with gravy, beans, milk if asked for, and coffee; for supper, bread and butter, cake, cheese, tea and milk. The dietary on the day preceding, Friday, was as follows: For breakfast, oatmeal, bread and butter and coffee; for dinner, boiled potatoes, cold-slaw, bread and butter and coffee. To the Catholic pupils fresh fish was served, and to the others meat stew, if they preferred it. For supper, warmed-up potatoes, bread and butter, and tea with milk and sugar. Milk is served at every meal to those asking for it. The dietary on the day of my visit, September twentieth, was as follows: For breakfast, beefsteak, potatoes, bread and butter, coffee and milk; for dinner, roast beef, potatoes, milk, or coffee, with milk and sugar, stewed tomatoes, and apples for dessert; for supper, bread and butter, tea, and stewed pears. Coffee was served twice a day, tea once, and milk three times to all wishing it. The tea is made from black and Japan mixed. Both white and Graham bread are placed on the table at each meal. The steaks are what are called round steak and are always fried, and the roasts are from the shoulder. The same quality of butter, bread, coffee, tea and milk is served to employees as to pupils. Rib roasts are served, however, at the family table. The kitchen department was a model of neatness and order.

The conclusion reached from the inquiry into the question of food supplied the pupils is that there is no serious cause for com-

plaint; at the same time, my opinion is that if it should receive closer attention it might be improved, and that this can be done with little, if any, increase of expense. The bread in use, as examined September twentieth and December twenty-third, was not quite up to a proper standard, being a little clammy, notwithstanding the dough was well kneaded and good yeast was used. The defect in this staple article might be found in the quality of flour used or in the fact that a tin box oven is used instead of a brick oven, or it might be partly attributed to both. Enough bread is baked here to warrant the use of a brick oven, and it should be supplied. Among the potatoes were intermixed many of those termed "scabby" by the farmers. A quantity of those that I saw after they were pared still showed the diseased spots. A better quality of potatoes should be supplied and at no greater cost than these, for which forty-five cents a bushel were paid. If, instead of serving fried steak, much of which must be tough, the plan were adopted of finely chopping the steak, as may be done by steam power, making it into cakes of half an inch in thickness and broiling them, as is done in some of the large institutions in Norway, and certain institutions in this country, a more palatable and nourishing dish would result, and greater economy would be attained. If maple or sugar-cane syrup were more commonly placed upon the tables the dietary would be more desirable to those of the children having dainty appetites.

The practice obtains here of so purchasing the supplies as to distribute the patronage of the institution with some degree of uniformity among the dealers of supplies in Batavia. For example, the books of the office showed that the groceries were purchased at the time of my visit mostly, if not entirely, of J. C. Lorish, grocer; the month previous of John G. Rourke, and the month previous of Casey Brothers. In September the business went to A. G. Puff. The same principle is carried out, as far as possible, in purchasing dry goods and other supplies. It is believed that if the purchase of supplies were open to competition there would be less complaint of the food and the State would be the gainer both in the quality and prices of the articles consumed.

The average weekly cost of support during the year was four dollars and ninety-six cents. There were expended for salaries of officers and for wages and labor \$18,186.40; for provisions and supplies, \$9,983.94; for clothing, \$1,691.58; for fuel and lights, \$3,341.20; for medicines and medical supplies, ninety-four dollars and seventy-three cents; for furniture, beds and bedding, \$515.59; for transportation and traveling expenses \$277.77; for expenses of trustees, \$257.37; for ordinary repairs, \$556.74; for other ordinary expenses, \$5,657.93, making the total sum of ordinary expenditure, \$40,563.25.

The board of trustees has reached the conclusion that the interests of the asylum will be advanced by separating the industrial department from the educational and by classifying the inmates as between the adults and minors; also by providing a gymnasium. They desire a building for these purposes, and will ask the Legislature for an appropriation of \$50,000 for this object. Dr. F. Park Lewis, who has distinguished himself as an oculist and has given much attention to the subject, strongly favors the proposition for a new building and will present to the Legislature a paper embodying his reasons for this departure. It must be conceded that the shops should be removed from the basements they now occupy to more desirable quarters; that the system of industrial training should be extended; that the classification between adults and younger pupils is highly desirable, and that there should be provided a gymnasium of ample size.

Provident Woodyard and Labor Bureau of the Charity Organization Society.

(638 South Division street, Buffalo. Office, Room No. 1, Fitch Institute.)

The woodyard occupies an inclosed space of land owned by the West Shore railway, on which there is a small office building. There is also a stable for horses, two of which are kept, with vehicles, for drawing material. There is also a toolhouse. Sheds are ranged along one side of the lot, in which wood is sawed, or

in which wood and coal may be stored. There are facilities for working from 100 to 150 men. The price allowed by the society for sawing and splitting slabs is seventy-five cents for each half cord.

Isadore Michael, chairman of the committee on mendicity and labor tests, in reporting upon this branch of the society's work for the nine months preceding October 1, 1893, says:

"The work of this department has greatly increased. Seventy-eight beggars and 100 street musicians and peddlers have been dealt with. Eight beggars have been arrested, seven being committed to the penitentiary. Lodgings and meals were furnished to 766 individuals, 362 more than were given the ten months previous. The majority of these homeless people were single men, who had either been in the city a few weeks and become stranded, or were on their way to another town. A few women, as well as a number of boys under 16, also applied.

"The results thus far seem to prove the wisdom of continuing this special work of the society, but that more stringent methods should be used in dealing with the men applying for a night's lodging. Some equivalent in the way of work should be required. Under present arrangements the men are lodged at a cheap lodging-house; no effort is made to know them or improve their condition.

"The committee, therefore, suggests that the project of establishing a wayfarers' lodge or inn where the men could be cared for, giving in return for lodgings and meals an equivalent in work, be agitated.

"The Provident Woodyard was opened on December 1, 1892, and work was continued till April 1, 1893. During this period fifty-six orders for work were issued to forty-five men; of these men, seventeen refused to work.

"The woodyard is operated as a test of the plea for charity made by able-bodied men, and is most efficient in that respect, as shown by the fact that, of the twenty-eight men who worked in the yard, nineteen did not apply for a second order. One had a second order; two had three orders, and two had seven orders. The amount of wood sawed by the twenty-eight men was twenty-nine cords."

The Queen City Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

(Buffalo.)

Incorporated in 1879. O. P. Letchworth, president; Sherman S. Rogers, Pascal P. Pratt, E. Carlton Sprague, Nelson Holland and Edward C. Warner, vice-presidents; Allen P. Ripley, Jr., secretary; H. T. Ramsdell, treasurer; S. Cary Adams, attorney and counsel.

The office of the society is at 62 Delaware avenue. Connected with it is a suite of rooms on the second floor used by the society in conducting its work. Besides the office, there are a living-room for the matron, a bathroom and lavatory and three rooms for the accommodation of mothers or their children while temporarily in charge of the society. The affairs of the corporation are directed by a board of eighteen managers. The immediate charge of the office and rooms, as well as the daily routine work of the society, is intrusted to B. A. Churchill, superintendent.

The society has been in operation upwards of fourteen years, and its work has increased each year in steady progression. Its success may be mainly attributed to the carefulness with which it has exercised its large statutory powers. While the superintendent is required to do more or less detective work, and critically investigate cases of complaint, great care is exercised not to intrude officiously the authority of the society beyond its proper limits and unnecessarily invade the home circle. The policy of the society is thus set forth in the language of its president:

"It has been the aim of this society to endeavor at all times to preserve the family relations. Where positive cases of cruelty, abandonment or abuse exist, the first step taken is to learn the full particulars; then endeavor, if the case will permit, to advise and counsel; so that the obligations of the parents to the child may be fully established and understood without the interference of the law. Where the case is more extreme, and admonitory methods will not serve, the strong arm of the law is then brought into requisition, the offenders made to understand what their obligations are, and if they will not meet such, the society assumes its full authority, rescuing the little ones from their trouble, and prosecuting with firm but decisive measure the offending parties. The children are provided with homes where it is possible to

obtain them, oftentimes in the care of more humane relatives, or in some of the charitable institutions provided for that purpose.

"The society has never, although entitled to do so by the law, availed itself of the proceeds of fines imposed in the police courts upon offenders; desiring at all times to avoid the possible criticism of being prosecutors for the benefit of the fines thus obtained. The society looks mainly to voluntary contributions for its support."

The following statistics will show the wide and varied range of humane and saving work performed by this society during the fiscal year ending September 30, 1893:

The number of children involved in the investigations made by the society, for charges of abandonment or neglect, beating and assault, was 630. In cases involving 179 children the charges were not substantiated.

The number of children placed in homes by the society was fourteen; the number referred to the county agents for placing in homes was thirty-three; the number placed in orphan asylums, eighty-seven; in reformatories, twelve; returned to parents or institutions, twenty-eight; sent out of the city to places where they properly belonged, twenty; to hospitals for medical treatment, ten; placed in charge of physicians, seven; in charge of poor authorities, fifty-one; in charge of school authorities, two; in charge of police authorities, fifteen; in charge of the supervisors' committee, fifteen; prevented from begging, peddling and playing upon musical instruments in the streets, twelve.

The society made thirty-one arrests of adults during the year, which resulted in the infliction of the following penalties: Fifteen were sent to the penitentiary; one was sent to the Asylum of Our Lady of Refuge; upon five were imposed fines varying in amount from five to fifty dollars; two were released on giving bonds to support their families; seven on promise to reform; and one, through the intercession of relatives.

During the year, 139 children, with forty-five women, either mothers or attendants, were cared for at the society's temporary shelter. There were furnished the children or their attendants 1,515 meals and 505 lodgings.

Since the organization of this society 3,116 cases, involving 7,011 children, have come under its protecting jurisdiction.

St. Francis Asylum.
(331 Pine street, Buffalo.)

This asylum, incorporated in 1869, is under the charge of sixteen sisters of the Roman Catholic order of the Sisters of St. Francis, Sister Gabriella being sister superior. This is the mother house of this sisterhood, and besides those engaged in active work are a number of sisters too feeble to be in actual service. Excepting one man at the stable, there are no hired persons engaged. All the work, however laborious or disagreeable, is performed by the sisters. The institution, besides exercising other functions, is a training-school for nurses, fitting them for the same kind of work as the sisters perform and for teachers in parish schools. The following named physicians render gratuitous service to the institution: Drs. Thomas Lothrop, William C. Kraus, John D. Flagg, Herbert Mickle, C. C. Fredericks, surgeon, and A. A. Hubbell, oculist.

The asylum was visited September seventh. It then contained 246 inmates, 106 men and 140 women. Some of the inmates are maintained by charity; others pay a certain sum for care during life, according to their means. Such as are able to do so pay three dollars a week. There were thirty patients received by orders of the superintendent of the poor, for whom one dollar and fifty cents a week are paid, and about eighty upon orders of the city overseer of the poor, for whom a like sum is received.

A large three-story brick building with stone foundation has been added to the asylum the present year for the special accommodation of the sisters, thus giving more room in the older part for the aged and infirm inmates, the care of whom is the primary object of the institution. Water is supplied from the city, but it does not reach the fourth floor and sometimes does not flow to the second floor. The house waste is discharged into the city sewers. There are no outside fire-escapes, but in the rear of the center of the building and between the two wings there are verandas with steps leading downward from each floor. These are relied upon in preference to the usual fire-escapes, on account of the difficulty of taking the helpless down in case of fire. It would seem that secure provision against the contingency of fire

has not been fully considered in the construction of the asylum buildings and that the subject should receive the further consideration of the management. The lighting is by city gas, and the heating by hot water, the latter having been substituted for steam during the past year at large expense.

The laundry is on the lower floor and contains improved machinery, including two steam cylinders, a wringer and mangle. There is a drying-room, but, when the weather permits, the clothes are dried out-of-doors. Rag carpets made in the institution are used throughout the house.

The food is supplied from a general kitchen, from which it is carried by elevators to the dining-rooms on different floors. The dinner as seen on the day of my visit appeared to be generous. It included soup, which is served at this meal every day, meat, two kinds of vegetables, bread and butter, tea, coffee and milk. The sick and delicate have a special diet, and the Germans and others accustomed to its use are moderately supplied with beer. The bread, baked in an old-fashioned brick oven, was of excellent quality. The same quality of flour and the same quality of bread are used for all.

The number of persons received during the year ending September 30, 1893, was ninety-seven. Those admitted are usually old and infirm, and, consequently, the mortality record is high. The number of deaths that had occurred during the year was forty-seven.

The most of the inmates occupy associated wards. There are, however, a good many single rooms. Both the wards and single rooms had comfortable chairs and beds, with pictures on the walls and other homelike furniture. Everything was orderly and clean, and the treatment extended by the sisters to the sick, aged and infirm seemed to be kind and considerate.

St. John's Protectory.

(West Seneca, near Buffalo.)

The protectory was incorporated in 1864. It is under the direction of the Society for the Protection of Destitute Roman Catholic Children in the City of Buffalo, of which Right Rev.

Stephen Vincent Ryan is president; Eugene Bertrand, secretary, and Nelson H. Baker, treasurer. The protectory is in the immediate charge of Rev. N. H. Baker, who is assisted by Father Garen. Eighteen sisters of the order of St. Joseph, under the leadership of Sister Agatha, and six brothers of the order of the Holy Infancy of Jesus are also engaged in the work. There are, including those who have charge of the shops and are engaged in teaching the boys, twelve adult male persons employed, but no females, the sisters looking after the domestic work. It is the duty of the brothers to take charge of the boys in the dormitories and generally supervise them when not employed in the shops and while at play. They also take them outside of the protectory inclosure to work in the garden, which is looked after by the brothers.

Soon after Father Baker assumed the responsibility of management, in 1882, at his suggestion an association was formed, with a yearly membership fee of twenty-five cents, for the purpose of sustaining and extending the work of the institution. The organization is called the Association of Our Lady of Victory. Respecting the success of the association Father Baker said on the occasion of my visit to the protectory, September fifth: "By this small contribution paid by a great number of friends we had sufficient not only to pay our debts, but also to increase our buildings and help us support the children. Starting in 1883, we are celebrating our tenth anniversary. During those ten years we have paid off all our debt, put up a large building that cost us \$50,000, and paid for it; have made about \$15,000 worth of improvements, and put up a new factory building. We have also, during the last two years, assisted in building an addition to St. Joseph's Asylum. We are now contracting for a brick building, 116 by sixty feet, four stories high, that will cost us \$50,000 more. This will give us two very large schoolrooms, two very large dormitories, a very large bathroom, a lavatory, large kitchen, a large addition to the chapel, and some additional rooms for infirmary and dwelling purposes; also a large playroom for the boys in the basement, and an exhibition hall. We have not the money to pay for this now, but we calculate, when it is

finished, which will be about a year from this time, that we shall not owe anything upon it. We estimate that the institution will then accommodate 400 boys."

At the time of my visit the protectory contained 260 inmates, ranging in age from 6 to 15 years. The legal age is from 7 to 14, but children are sometimes retained longer by request of their friends.

Attached to the institution are about 100 acres of land, about ten acres of which are planted with vegetables, such as peas, beans, cabbages, carrots, lettuce, parsnips, onions, turnips, beets, asparagus, cucumbers, squashes, etc. A considerable section was planted with potatoes. There is also an orchard, besides a goodly acreage of meadow.

In the printing and electrotyping department are usually employed about twenty-five boys, working under two competent and experienced paid foremen, one overseeing the printing department and the other the electrotyping department. In the cane-seating shop about thirty of the smaller boys are employed, and in the chair factory as many more. From three to five boys are employed in repairing shoes, under the direction of a foreman, and about the same number of lads are engaged in tailoring, mending and sewing. In favorable weather about ten boys work in the garden and fields. Father Baker said in regard to printing and electrotyping: "The way we teach printing it does not take long for a bright fellow, with the education he has before entering the shop, to learn the printer's trade. At the end of one year we think that the boy is able to compete with an ordinarily good printer. We put him at once at the case, when he begins immediately to learn his business. In an ordinary printing office it is claimed that it takes four years to become a good printer, but for a couple of years the boy there is obliged to be what they call a printer's devil, and occupy his time in doing the dirty work of the office; whereas, as I have said, we put him right at the case. With application, if he is determined to learn, and is a bright boy, with sufficient education, at the end of a year we can start him out to earn his own living. Our boys are scattered so that they do not inconvenience the trade. When they leave here most of

them go to the different villages whence they came, where they are enabled to get occupation. In small towns the boys are afforded a better opportunity to get situations than in large cities. In large places the union may sometimes prohibit them from taking advantage of their trade. In the smaller towns there is always one, or perhaps two or three, newspapers, on which the boys get a good chance to start. As to electrotyping, they learn a certain part; that is to say, the molding; the finishing must be done by skilled mechanics. It is a trade of itself, and it takes a longer time to acquire it perfectly than we think it is for the advantage of the boys to give to it."

Boys are committed indefinitely to the custody of the board of managers of the society from the fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth judicial districts by committing magistrates, justices of the peace, police justices and justices of the lower courts.

Boys are discharged from the protectory in the following manner: The board of managers meet every three months to consider cases brought before it, with recommendations and requests from parents, friends and the officers of the protectory. If the latter advise that the boy be dismissed because of good conduct, or because the institution has done all that it could for him, the board decides to dismiss him. In every case, however, it examines carefully into the condition of parents or friends, and if it finds that they are not competent or fit to take care of the boy the petition of friends is denied, and the case laid over for further consideration. As a general rule the superintendent must recommend the dismissal of boys, and this is done sometimes even before the parents or friends desire it, because of lack of room. Father Baker says: "When a boy has been in the institution as long as we think he ought to stay, and we can do no more for him, we encourage parents or friends to try him, and we make application to our board for his discharge, and they usually act upon our suggestion. The action of our board is always by a quorum and not by a committee of the board. For such boys as have no friends, or, having such, their friends do not apply for discharge, if dismissed upon our recommendation we find occupation for them. We have them transferred to the Work-

ing Boys' Home in the city, which has been organized within the last three years, and ask the father there to take charge of them, and he assists in getting them situations. Besides this means of assisting the boys we have usually two agents out seeking places for them and looking after the interests of those previously dismissed. One of our agents has made four trips this summer and has disposed of about fifty children. The most of these were small children having no friends or parents, or if they have any they are dissipated or broken down. Such children we can dispose of without fear of paternal interference. Our agent goes out with a letter to the clergyman of the diocese, who makes a special appeal to the people of his church, stating that there will be some of the children there the next Sunday, and in the name of charity urging those who can afford to take a child to do so. The clergyman of the parish, knowing the people, allows only such to take children as he believes to be qualified for such a responsibility, and only such as are so situated as to give the children requisite care. Children are neither indentured nor adopted; they are simply placed out. We find this the better method, for if people do not use the children right it is easy to remove them to another place. The clergyman of the place looks after the child after it has been so placed out and we hold him responsible. If we find him reluctant to take such responsibility we do not send a child to his care."

As to the length of time children remain in the protectory Father Baker said: "As a general rule we change our children every year. If we receive, say 200 children, we dismiss 200. Some would remain not more than two months; some four, five and six months; and some would remain, on account of peculiar circumstances, two years or even longer, as in cases where parents refuse to take them, or we think they are not suitable to go. The greater proportion of the children remain in the institution only from three to six months."

Water is gathered in three large cisterns, from which it is pumped by a windmill into a tank, having a capacity of 400 barrels, in the attic. There is besides an inexhaustible well, the

water from which is pumped into the attic tank when the cisterns are dry. When the wind fails a steam force-pump is used to keep the attic reservoir full. On each floor of the building there are 100 feet of two-inch hose attached to a pipe midway on each floor, to be used in case of fire. Water is also kept in barrels on the upper floors, readily accessible in an emergency.

Every boy has a bath once a week. The bathing, for which eight bathtubs are used, occupies two days. All the tubs are supplied with hot and cold water by means of pipes.

The water-closets, for the boys, are at the extremity of the play-yard and near the workshop. Beneath the seats, which are exposed to the gaze of an observer, are boxes on slides, which are drawn away by a team when necessary and the contents deposited upon the land. The odor from the privies was quite offensive. Besides, they lack privacy, and the exposure of the children when in the closets must have a tendency to form careless habits, not in accord with strict rules of propriety. Vessels are used by the boys at night and are emptied in the morning into the open closets in the playground yard. The waste and wash water from the house is conveyed through a sewer to a cesspool about 300 feet beyond the main buildings.

In regard to the health of the children Father Baker said: "We have not had a doctor in the house to attend upon a case of sickness of a child confined to bed for over two years. We have had colds, but no serious illness like fevers or diseases of that kind. Out of about 400 children in the protectory and in St. Joseph's Asylum opposite us we have no case of eye disease at present. Children come here with weak eyes, but they soon are cured. The board of health visited us about six months ago and gave us a flattering report."

The new buildings are provided with fire-escapes from every floor. They are heated by steam and lighted with natural gas. The schoolrooms are large, well lighted and airy, and are furnished with patent desks, blackboards, etc. The rooms are classified into primary, middle, and higher grades. A little yard in the rear of the new building is beautified with flowers. The large play-

ground in the rear of the main building is surrounded by a board fence twelve or fourteen feet high. There is considerable rag carpet on the various floors of the main building, the material for which was prepared by the children supervised by the sisters. The dormitories are furnished with French pattern wooden bedsteads with wooden slats and husk mattresses. The windows have gratings and inside blinds.

The workshop of the institution, in which is a steam engine to propel the machinery, is a three-story, well-lighted brick building. Specimens of printing were shown, also chairs and other manufactured articles, evidencing good workmanship. The workshops exhibited some disorder and confusion, as seen in the handling of stock, arrangement of tools and disposal of waste. In this respect this department presented a strong contrast to the main building, which, under the care of the sisters, was found to be clean and orderly throughout. The inculcating of habits of order, so necessary to economy and thrift, was thought to be overlooked in some degree in the manufacturing department.

Some of the boys assist the sisters in the kitchen and various other of the domestic departments. Five boys were at work in the bakery, learning to make bread, under the guidance of the sisters. The bread was made from a high grade of flour, which cost four dollars and fifty cents a barrel. It was excellent, being well kneaded and having a good brown crust, and was friable and sweet. The same quality of bread is provided for both the officers and the boys.

The children are punished when it is thought necessary by means of a ruler upon the hand. A whip is never used, nor are they ever deprived of food, although sometimes they are forbidden extras in the way of delicacies.

The visit to the protectory was on the whole very satisfactory and left the impression that it was doing a vast amount of good in the reformation of delinquent children, and that the maintenance and prosperity of the institution were necessary to advance the best interests of the large district of country from which it receives children.

St. Joseph's Orphan Asylum.

(West Seneca, near Buffalo.)

This asylum is situated on the opposite side of the street from St. John's Protectory. It is under the charge of twelve sisters of the order of St. Joseph, Sister Elizabeth being superior. There are besides two adult female helpers and a man who attends to the steam boilers. During the present year a brick addition has been made to the older building at a cost of \$30,000. Its present capacity is for 200 children. At the date of my visit, September fifth, it contained 150. The new part is used for dormitories, schoolrooms, playrooms, bathrooms, lavatories, etc. The rooms have plenty of sunlight and are spacious and airy. Water is supplied by a well and three cisterns, from which it is elevated by a windmill to tanks in the top of the building. Two-inch hose were being put in, to reach the full length of the floor. There are outside fire-escapes from each floor. Outside water-closets and night vessels are commonly used for the children. Flush closets are provided inside for use in case of sickness.

The children appeared to be in good health, except two who were complaining of slight illness. The larger proportion of the children are brought in by parents and friends; the lesser number are committed by the city poormaster and the county superintendent of the poor. Some of the children are placed out by the same means and in the same manner as the children of the protectory, the protectory agent acting for the asylum. Some are placed out by the Erie county agent. They are not bound out nor indentured. The number that had been placed out by adoption during the year ending September 30, 1893, was four; the number returned to parents or guardians, fifty-three; otherwise discharged, six. The number that had been received during the year was 117.

Most of the children go barefoot in summer. Two sisters sleep in each dormitory with the children. The same kind of beds are used as in the protectory. They were nicely made up and appeared to be very comfortable. The bathtubs and lavatories are supplied with hot and cold water in pipes.

The old part of the asylum has been thoroughly renovated, walls painted, halls wainscoted, floors covered with oilcloth, the whole presenting a fresh and clean appearance. In the yard is a covered pavilion for the children to play in. The laundry is separate from the main building.

In the dining-rooms the little children sit on benches at tables covered with white enameled cloth. They use tin mugs for their milk. The older boys sit on stools and have cups, knives and forks. The dietary was given as follows: For breakfast, bread, butter, tea, coffee, hot milk for the little ones, and fried potatoes nearly the year round. For dinner, meat, vegetables, bread, butter, and milk for the little ones. If it is cool weather the milk is heated. For supper, bread, tea, butter or sauce. When they have butter they do not have sauce. Once a week they have molasses and once a week corn bread.

No special industries are taught, it being thought that the children are too young. When not in school they are permitted to play. Children are received from 2 years old up to 14 years of age. The average age of the children in the asylum is about 8 years.

The institution was found to be clean in all its departments, and the sisters are evidently devoted to their work.

St. Mary's Asylum for Widows, Foundlings and Infants.

(126 Edward street, Buffalo.)

This asylum is under the charge of nine sisters of the Roman Catholic order of the Sisters of Charity; Sister Eugenia being sister superior. It has a capacity for about 300 inmates. It was visited September eighth. An intelligent conception of the institution and its workings, it is thought, may best be given by using, so far as practicable, the language of Sister Eugenia in replying to questions asked her:

"We have six hired assistants, including three trained nurses, but these alone could not do the work. We have an infant and lying-in department, with twenty or thirty charity patients. In the lying-in hospital, including the widows' department, having

accommodations for eight, and the private hall, where there are now six patients, paying from eight to fifteen dollars a week, there is accommodation for about fifty persons. The patients in the ward pay five dollars a week. There are at present seven of those, and three city patients, for whom we receive three dollars a week. There were twenty-four city patients admitted during the year, and seven for whom we do not expect to receive anything. There are twenty mothers who stay to take care of their own infants and assist with the housework. We give these what they need, shoes and clothing, while they remain in the house.

"In the infant asylum we have room for 125 or more. At present we have 100 children. In the playroom there are fifty-one children from 4 to 7 years of age. They have kindergarten an hour in the morning and they are in class for an hour or two in the afternoon, besides singing-class.

"In the nursery there are forty-nine children, from a day to 4 years old. The larger children here have also their little calisthenic exercises. The mortality varies, and is greater during the summer months. We place out as many as possible to be wet nursed. Homes can be found easily for bright, healthy children who have no one to claim them.

"During the year ending September 30, 1893, 215 children were received into the institution. This does not include those in the house October 1, 1892. Of these, eighty-five were charged to Erie county at one dollar a week; sixteen were charged to other counties at one dollar and seventy-five cents a week; ten of the remainder are paid for regularly at one dollar a week. Some of the mothers who do not wish to stay with their infants pay what they can afford and we find nurses for the infants, but if we were depending upon what we receive from counties and individuals we could not support the asylum; at least, not with the comforts which we now afford the children.

"The hospital department more than supports itself, and it is upon that we chiefly rely. Of course we take no salaries and give few. What we give for compensation and wages seldom amounts to more than \$1,000 a year. Our surplus funds, therefore, go to pay for improvements and for the comfort of inmates."

During the year twenty children had been placed out by adoption, 117 returned to parents or guardians, six transferred to other institutions, and eighty-three, including babies, had died.

The buildings, which are four stories high, are supplied with city water, and have connection with the city sewers. The heating is done by hot water, and by natural gas in open fires to perfect ventilation, and small stoves in the nursery when necessary. The children's playrooms have waxed floors, and are exceptionally clean. The clothesrooms were models of neatness. The little girls, at 4 years old, are taught to put away their clothes, and fold them with nice exactness. If they fail in the first attempt they must try again. Every child has its own hand and face towel. There was no case of sore eyes in the house. "During all the summer," Sister Eugenia said, "we have had no sickness among the children except that caused by teething. We are particular to give them fresh air. We have the windows left open in the dormitories sufficiently long to air them thoroughly."

The bedsteads have woven-wire bottoms, on which is a hair mattress, with woolen blankets and feather pillows. The bedclothes are changed weekly. All the children old enough to do so wear shoes and stockings.

The cooking is done by natural gas. The bread was examined and found to be excellent. The thoroughness with which the work is done here, and the uniform order and system prevailing throughout the establishment are worthy of especial note. Nevertheless, it will be seen that the mortality among the infants is very great, and it would seem to be a subject worthy of the special consideration of the managers.

St. Mary's Orphan Asylum.

(Dunkirk.)

When I first visited this asylum, incorporated in 1858, its work was carried on in a frame building, formerly a private residence, which stood where the present asylum building now stands. Its

affairs were directed then, as now, by Sister M. Anastasia, who was one of the first to undertake the task of organizing the work of St. Joseph's Orphan Asylum at West Seneca, near Buffalo. Notwithstanding her long and arduous labors, she is as enthusiastic in her work as when I first knew her.

The present asylum building is a substantial brick edifice, consisting of a main structure three stories high, with basement and Mansard roof, and two wings of two stories with same style of roof, and a two-story extension in the rear. Conspicuous on the wall of the reception-room hangs the portrait of H. J. Miner, a former citizen of Dunkirk, who was a generous benefactor of the institution. In front of the asylum is a velvety lawn, with a closely trimmed hedge on either side. The grounds are nicely kept and indicate the neatness and order to be found within.

There is a large vegetable garden at the asylum, besides which the asylum owns a farm of sixty acres near the town, from whence many supplies in the way of fruit, vegetables, etc., are obtained. Six cows are kept here, which furnish the milk used. During the summer some of the older children are taken frequently to the farm.

Sister Anastasia is assisted in the management of the asylum by six other sisters of the Roman Catholic order of the Sisters of St. Joseph. The seven assume the work of the asylum proper. There are, besides, six other sisters, whose time is mostly taken up in teaching in the parochial schools, three of the teachers giving special attention to German children. The capacity of the asylum is for about sixty children. At the time of my visit, July eighteenth, it contained forty-five children, twenty-nine of whom were girls.

The well-ventilated dormitories, with their picture-embellished walls and clean beds, were attractive. The boys sleep on corn-husk ticks, and the girls on mattresses laid on springs. In each dormitory is a curtained bed for one of the sisters.

The institution is abundantly supplied with water from the city water-works, and discharges its waste into the city sewers. Flush water-closets are in use, and the bathing facilities are ample. The bathtubs are supplied with hot and cold water, as

are also the bowls in the lavatory, where each child has its own towel.

In the boys' play-yards are capacious sheds for outside recreation in bad weather.

The school is under the supervision of the city Department of Public Instruction. The classes in drawing and penmanship showed commendable proficiency. One of the lads showed remarkable skill and grace in his exercises at the blackboard. Instruction upon the piano is occasionally given to some of the older girls in the asylum and is regularly imparted to a class of young misses from the outside, several pianos being used for the purpose. The children are class instructed in domestic work, including cooking, laundrying and needlework. A miniature exhibit of the pupils' attainments in school and in all kinds of needlework was made at the World's Fair, which was highly creditable to the institution.

All parts of the institution were visited. Its sanitary condition seemed unexceptionable, and perfect order and cleanliness prevailed throughout.

St. Vincent's Female Orphan Asylum.

(1313 Main street, Buffalo.)

The present appearance of this asylum is in striking contrast to that which it presented when occupying its former contracted quarters on Batavia street. The main building, formerly a spacious private residence, is situated in the midst of highly improved grounds, which are judiciously and tastefully embellished with flowers and shrubbery. In a corner of the grounds are some unpretentious little patches containing plants and vegetables, over which such of the children of the asylum as have a taste for gardening exercise undisputed control. In the rear of the main building is a large and plain brick building, three stories high, with basement, which has been added to the other by the sisters, and which is used for dormitories, schoolrooms, workrooms, etc. There is also a large one-story frame building used for kindergarten purposes, calisthenics, play and general entertainment.

The buildings are supplied with city water, and are connected with the city sewerage system. They are lighted by gas and heated by steam. There are outside fire-escapes from all the upper floors.

The asylum is under the management of twelve sisters of the Roman Catholic order of the Sisters of Charity, Sister Emily being superior.

The institution was visited September seventh. It contained at that time 135 children, all girls. There were only thirty-four that were committed by superintendents of the poor or magistrates. Eight of these were from Erie county, sixteen from Chemung, eight from Niagara, and one each from Orleans and Jefferson. Seventy of the children were supported entirely by the institution, and the remainder have parents or relatives who pay a little towards their education and support. The usual charge is from five to six dollars a month, but a good many parents, Sister Emily said, do not pay even this sum because of their poverty, and so are permitted to pay what they can. Some children are transferred here from the Infant Asylum on Edward street when old enough to attend school. A few of them are in one way or another defective and ineligible for placement in families.

Respecting the industrial system Sister Emily gave the following information: "This year we have noticed a marked increase in the number of applications for admission of children, but, owing to want of room, we have been unable to meet the many demands. The older children we are trying to train into conscientious workers, and have therefore opened an industrial department. We have a sewing-room, in which, after school, children are taught sewing and how to make their own clothes. We commenced, as an experiment, to take in sewing. At first we took shirts from a shirt factory, but, finding this unprofitable, we had recourse to other means. Some of the sisters acquired the art of cutting and fitting dresses, and then trained the girls to it. We soon found that, by speaking to persons interested in our work of our intention to take in sewing, a great many brought sewing to us, and we have had, and have now, all the work we can manage. When we find girls that really have a taste for dressmaking, fancy sewing and embroidery, for their sakes, we keep them longer than we would otherwise."

The fine sewing, embroidery and partially-completed wedding dresses in the sewing-rooms gave evidence of remarkable skill in needlework.

"Besides our sewing-room," Sister Emily said, "we have a bakery and kitchen, under the direction of a sister, where all the children old enough to do so take lessons in cooking.

"Sometimes parents take away their children as soon as they are old enough to work. The girls that are more or less dependent upon their own resources and have no one to look after them, we teach trades, and keep them until they are 18 years old. After that, if they are not capable of supporting themselves, we tell them if they will stay until they are 21 we will give them a diploma, provide them with a full outfit of clothes and twenty dollars. We do not bind our children out. We have found, as a rule, that they are regarded, more or less, as menials, and that when old enough to acquire some independence they withdraw from the family, complaining that the treatment they have received is unjust and unfair. These considerations compelled us to open an industrial department."

The children attend school from 8.30 in the morning until 10; then follow recess and luncheon, occupying fifteen minutes. The school is then continued until 12 o'clock. It is called again at 1.15, and held until 3.15. The larger girls averaged good percentages. Some of them had passed the Regents' examination. The teachers in the school must be approved by the city superintendent of schools. The school books, desks and furniture are the same as in the public schools. As we entered the kindergarten-room about fifty children, under the direction of a sister, were going through calisthenic exercises, first with dumb-bells, then with wands, keeping time to a marching tune.

The children are not dressed alike, although they have what they call a special dress which is worn on extra occasions. The facilities for bathing are ample and complete. Each child has its own towel, comb and hair-brush and tooth-brush.

Respecting the dietary Sister Emily said: "For breakfast we have generally bread and butter and coffee; sometimes meat on Sundays; sometimes fruit and extras on feast days. For dinner

we have meat, potatoes and a second vegetable; sometimes cabbage, sometimes beets. To-day they had peas, potatoes and bread pudding; yesterday they had meat, cabbage and potatoes. For supper we give bread, butter, fruit in season, and molasses, and to the larger girls tea and to the smaller ones milk. Sometimes they have stewed fruit at this meal or cream cheese. We try to vary the dietary each day. Besides these three daily meals all the little ones have a luncheon of bread at 10 o'clock and at 3, and the larger girls of bread or rolls and butter. When apples are plenty an apple is given with the bread."

In regard to the health of the children Sister Emily said: "We have no sore eyes. We have no sickness now, nor have we had for some time. Last year we had one death from heart disease, which occurred but a few days after the child was admitted; another died of fever. Before we had not had a death in ten years."

The dormitories, which were well aired, have bedsteads with woven-wire bottoms of the Hartford make. All the bedsteads have bright brass balls which, with the immaculate cleanness and neatness of these apartments, added to their attractiveness.

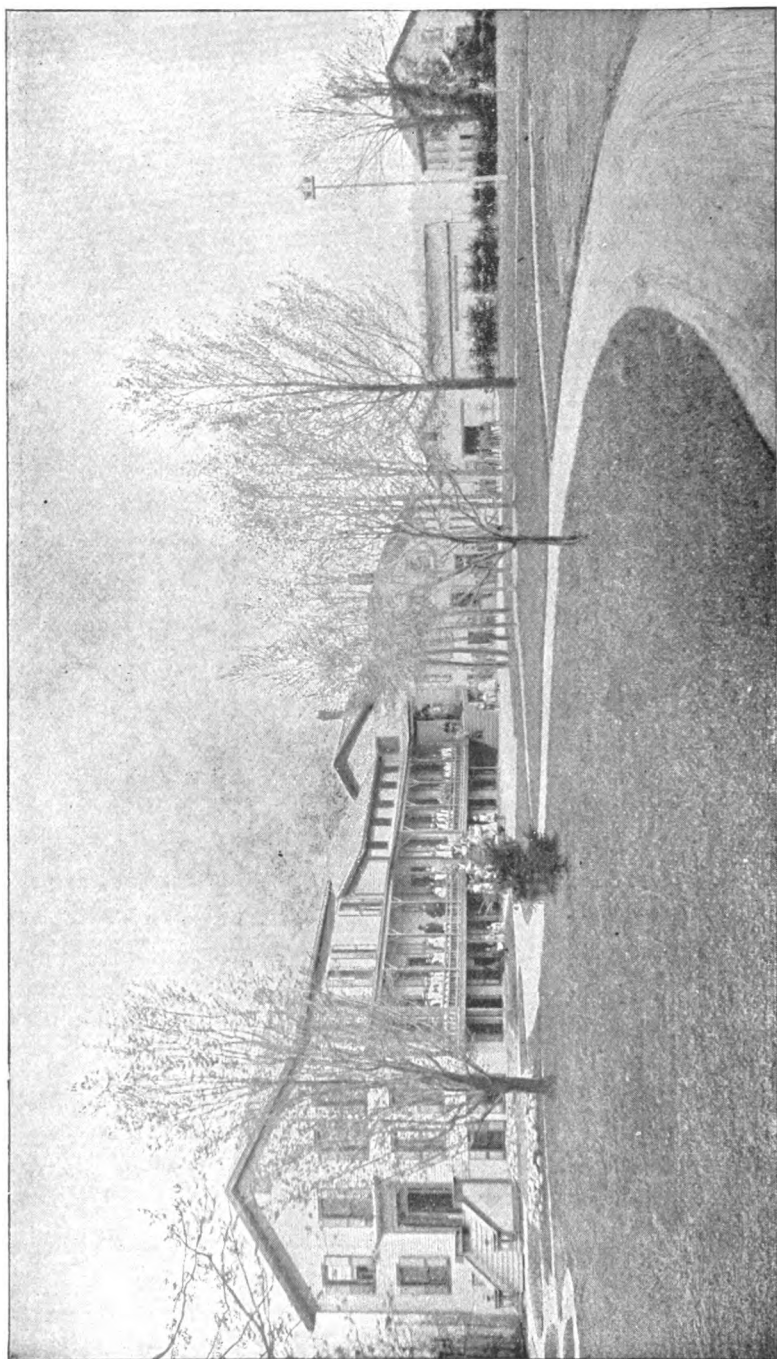
The number of children received during the year ending September 30, 1893, was sixty-one; the number placed out by adoption was four; and the number returned to parents or guardians forty.

All parts of the asylum were inspected, and it was found that scrupulous cleanness, order and good administration were observed throughout.

The Society for the Protection of Destitute Roman Catholic Children at the City of Buffalo.

Incorporated by special act of the Legislature in 1864. Right Rev. Stephen Vincent Ryan, president; Eugene Bertrand, secretary, and Nelson H. Baker, treasurer.

The object of the society is to take charge of and provide for the support, education and training of such idle, truant, vicious or homeless children of both sexes, under the age of 14, as may be intrusted by their friends to its protection, and the children of



THE THOMAS ASYLUM FOR ORPHAN AND DESTITUTE INDIAN CHILDREN.

Roman Catholic parents, between 7 and 14 years of age, who may be committed to its custody by the order or judgment of any magistrate of the sixth, seventh and eighth judicial districts.

The boys coming under the jurisdiction of the society are mainly sent to its reformatory — St. John's Protectory — and the girls are mostly committed to the care of the sisters in charge of the Asylum of Our Lady of Refuge.

The number of children received during the year was 288; the number placed in families by adoption was thirty-five; returned to parents or guardians, 154; transferred to other institutions, seventeen, and eleven were sent out of the State.

For further particulars respecting the children committed to the custody of the society, see St. John's Protectory and the Asylum of Our Lady of Refuge.

The Thomas Asylum for Orphan and Destitute Indian Children.

(Cattaraugus Indian Reservation, Versailles P. O.)

This asylum was incorporated as a private institution by chapter 233, Laws of 1855, and reorganized and reincorporated as a State institution by chapter 162, Laws of 1875. The present board of managers consists of the following members: Michael Danahy, president, Buffalo; Robert McCubbin, secretary, Perrysburgh; G. C. Carpenter, treasurer, Gowanda; J. H. Schaack, Gowanda; John Sax, Gowanda; William Cooper, Indian, Akron; Chester Lay, Sr., Indian, Versailles; Alfred Jimerson, Indian, Salamanca; Holland D. Patterson, Indian, Pekin.

The asylum is under the immediate charge of Aaron F. Bennett, who assumed his duties in the latter part of May. He receives a salary of \$1,000 a year. His wife acts as matron and receives \$600 a year. Mr. and Mrs. Bennett succeeded Mr. and Mrs. Hooker, who had charge of the asylum about one year succeeding the retirement of J. H. Van Valkenburg and his wife. Dr. J. D. Zwetsch, residing in Gowanda, holds the office of physician, as successor to Dr. A. D. Lake, and receives a salary of \$200 a year for visiting once a week. For extra visits an additional charge is made. The force under the superintendent and his wife comprises

the following assistants: A seamstress, who is also the governess for the large girls; a governess for the large boys; a nurse, having charge of the nursery department; a laundress—all at four dollars a week; a cook at five dollars a week; a farm overseer at thirty dollars a month; an Indian lad as engineer at twenty-two dollars a month; and an Indian lad as teamster at eighteen dollars a month. In the school, the principal, Elmer Durfee, receives \$600 a year, and Miss Maud Bennett, a daughter of the superintendent, receives \$400 a year as assistant.

For a number of years past, upwards of 100 children have been provided for in the asylum, but this has been done by crowding and under very unsatisfactory conditions. The bathing and closet arrangements were entirely inadequate; the pipes and fixtures were out of repair, and one of the closets could not be used. With the exception of one pipe, no proper system of traps and back ventilation existed, and the sewer-gas escaped into the adjoining rooms and dormitories, creating a highly unsanitary condition. The water was obtained from two artesian wells upon the premises, and was pumped into two small tanks in the attic of the main building, and from these tanks was distributed throughout the buildings. These tanks were frequently, if not daily, exhausted, and no provision was made for water service in case of fire. The dormitories in the main building were greatly overcrowded and poorly ventilated. The facilities for washing and ironing were quite inadequate, and the laundrying was, in consequence, unsatisfactorily performed. The asylum was lighted by kerosene oil lamps, one of which exploded the past year, threatening the destruction of the buildings. Many of the floors in the main building were worn out, and others, particularly those in the basement, were rotten, as were also the outside steps leading to the porches.

The Legislature of 1893 appropriated \$13,000, to be expended under the direction of the local board of managers, for the purpose of increasing the capacity of the asylum so as to accommodate properly 100 inmates, for putting it in a better sanitary condition, and for better protecting life and property against the

contingency of fire. An appropriation of \$400 was also made for repairing the highway between the railway station and the asylum, which, during certain seasons of the year, has heretofore been almost impassable. The improvements at the asylum are progressing, upon plans prepared by George J. Metzger, architect, of Buffalo.

Inspections of the institution were made May twenty-fifth, September nineteenth, and December eighth. On the last-named date there were 102 children, fifty boys and fifty-two girls. The ages of the children, both boys and girls, ranged from 3 to 15 years. The average age of the boys was a little over 10 years and that of the girls a little over 9 years. It was stated that but one of the boys and six of the girls had reached maturity.

From the census of 1890 it appears that the Indians on the six New York State reservations were distributed as follows: On the Cattaraugus reservation, 1,582; on the Allegany reservation, 880; on the Tonawanda reservation, 561; on the Tuscarora reservation, 459; on the Onondaga reservation, 494; and on the St. Regis reservation, 1,157. Of the 107 children in the asylum, September thirtieth, fifty-one were from the Cattaraugus reservation; eighteen from the Allegany reservation; ten from the Tonawanda reservation; nine from the Tuscarora reservation; sixteen from the Onondaga reservation, and three from the Oneida settlement.

The number of children received during the year ending September thirtieth was thirty-nine. The number returned to parents or guardians was twenty-three, and the number otherwise discharged was nine. There have been two deaths since September thirtieth, both of girls, one of whom had an enfeebled constitution, and the death of the other was due to a sad accident which occurred on November eighth. A teamster who was drawing lumber for one of the contractors piled up his load in such a manner that it toppled over on a couple of children, who, with others, were playing about the pile. One was slightly injured; the other, Lena Snow, 7 years old, was instantly killed, a sharp corner of a board penetrating her skull. The attendant upon the children had been absent from them but a few minutes. Only

one of the children in the asylum was ill at the date of my last visit, and she had been complaining from the time she entered the institution, but was not confined to her bed. There had been during the year preceding December eighth, twenty-eight cases of whooping-cough and several cases of chicken-pox, from which all had recovered.

Dr. Zwetsch, who was with me at the asylum September nineteenth, directed my attention to numerous cases of ophthalmia, some of which he considered dangerous and thought should receive the attention of an oculist. On my return from the asylum I wrote the president of the board respecting the critical condition of these children and expressed the opinion that he should at once engage the services of a specialist of high standing, and have him give attention to the eyes of these children, either by going to the asylum or having the children taken to Buffalo. I also suggested that it would be well for the asylum board to engage a specialist by the year, who, co-operating with the asylum physician, would assume the responsibility of giving necessary treatment to the eyes of all the children under care. Dr. F. Park Lewis was subsequently employed by the asylum board to visit the asylum and examine the children's eyes. He writes, under date of December eighteenth, respecting his visit there, as follows: "I visited the Thomas Asylum, near Gowanda, in company with the attending physician, Dr. Zwetsch, and spent the greater portion of the day examining the eyes of the inmates. I found a number of them, about fifteen, giving evidence of either present or past inflammation, the clear portion of the eye, the cornea, being spotted and scarred. This left many of them with defective vision. One had inturmed eyes, a condition remediable by the use of correct glasses or by operation. For some I prescribed glasses; for others, in consultation with the attending physician, suitable constitutional remedies which he will have properly administered. I made some suggestions regarding the light and the general use of the eyes. I think that occasional special supervision of the eyes, in conjunction with the intelligent and careful weekly attention of the attending physician, may prevent

or relieve troubles of the eyes that otherwise might result very seriously."

The children are well clothed. In summer, although furnished with shoes and stockings, the boys are allowed to go barefoot except on Sundays, which most of them do. They have a special dress for Sunday. Nearly all the boys have been supplied with new suits since the present superintendent assumed charge. The girls have two week-day dresses, besides a Sunday dress. Each has a clean dress every Sunday morning. Those having long hair are each given a ribbon for Sunday use.

The children attend service and Sabbath-school every Sunday at the United Mission Church, of which a considerable number of them are members.

All the children were in school on the afternoon of my last visit, except three nursery children and three who were taking their turn in domestic work. The proficiency of the pupils, especially in penmanship, reflects much credit upon the teachers.

The work of the farm has largely been performed by the Indian boys and the farmer, under the supervision of the superintendent. Owing to the severe dry weather and the damage done by grasshoppers, the farm and garden have not been as productive as usual. Nevertheless, the products have been considerable, and are given as follows: Sixty tons of hay, valued at \$480; twenty tons of cornstalks, sixty dollars; twenty tons oat straw, sixty dollars; eight tons sweet cornstalks, eighty dollars; two tons bean pods, eight dollars; 300 bushels of oats, \$105; sixty bushels buckwheat, thirty dollars; 300 bushels of corn in the ear, seventy-five dollars; fifty bushels of beans, \$100; 500 bushels of peas, \$200; 400 bushels of potatoes, \$200; 100 bushels tomatoes, forty dollars; 2,000 pounds pork, \$140; 1,200 quarts milk, thirty-six dollars; besides apples, grapes, onions, squashes, radishes, lettuce, cucumbers, cabbages and beets, aggregating in value \$108; making the total products of the farm and garden \$1,722.

Aside from the work done in the kitchen and in other branches of housekeeping a very creditable showing has been made in the sewing and knitting department, from which have been turned

out, of boys' coats, trousers, shirts and jackets, 485; of girls' dresses, aprons, skirts, nightdresses, drawers, chemises, etc., 904; of tablecloths, napkins, sheets, pillowcases, towels, flannel dresses, bedspreads, etc., 728; besides 150 stockings, making in all 2,267 articles manufactured in this department. In addition to these more substantial articles the girls have made a considerable quantity of bead and fancy work, including husk dolls. This kind of work is mostly sold to visitors, and the returns are given to the girls to encourage industrious habits and application. The total expenditures of the institution from October 1, 1892, to September 30, 1893, were \$12,136.91.

In regard to disciplining the children the matron said that mild means of correction, such as making a child sit in the assembly-room or office, or requiring it to undress and go to bed, are used before corporal punishment is resorted to. This is administered, in the case of girls, by herself, and in the case of boys, by the superintendent, a small whip with lash being used. This is never applied to the naked person. The matron said that at one time she taught school and did not use a whip, but that she found in managing these young Indians she could not get along without occasionally using it. In three or four months she had whipped five girls, and the superintendent had punished, in the same way, about as many boys. The children have recently been drilled to march in line by couples to and from the dining-room and their dormitories, for the better preservation of order and the prevention of confusion in case of an alarm of fire.

The dietary September nineteenth was as follows: For breakfast, bread, milk and seasoned coffee; for dinner, potatoes, green corn, codfish, gravy and bread; for supper, bread, milk and butter. The diet was not sufficiently varied and nutritious. The dietary on December eighth was as follows: For breakfast, bread, butter and coffee, and to some of the little ones was given milk; for dinner, roast sparerib and gravy, boiled potatoes and bread; for supper, bread, butter, apple-sauce, milk and crackers. Apples in their season are supplied three times a week. Meat is now occasionally given at breakfast. Oatmeal, the matron

said, was not liked by the children. Sometimes boiled onions or other vegetables are included at dinner.

It is believed that certain rules which I recently suggested, and which have been incorporated in the by-laws of the board of managers, will be helpful in regulating the dietary and otherwise aiding the managers in supervising their work. One of them requires the matron to keep, in a book provided for the purpose, a record of the food supplied at each meal to the inmates of the asylum, and at each stated meeting of the board of managers to present this record, verified by her signature; the other, that it shall be the duty of the attending physician at the asylum to examine, at least once a week, the food supplied to the inmates, and whenever, in his opinion, it is not sufficient in quantity or of proper quality and variety, immediately to report the fact in writing to the superintendent and president of the board, and also to the State Board of Charities.

During my visit, September nineteenth, there were a great many flies in the kitchen and dining-room. They literally swarmed on the windows. The kitchen was in disorder, and some of the floors were not as clean as they should have been. There were other evidences that a proper standard of housekeeping was not maintained. The matron appeared to be earnestly desirous of meeting the exigencies of the situation, but she was evidently hard worked. She said that the children were too young to be of much service in the domestic department; besides, that from 9 a. m. to 12 m. and from 1 to 4 p. m. all the boys and girls except two were in school. She thought that she ought to have two strong women workers to assist her, which seemed but a reasonable request. At the time of my visit, December eighth, one more female assistant had been employed.

In April last an article was published in the Times newspaper of Buffalo setting forth that an Indian girl, an inmate of the Thomas Asylum, had been discovered to be with child, and that she had been sent away to conceal her disgrace. The article strongly reflected upon the superintendent, H. W. Hooker, and his wife, intimating broadly that the former was the author of the girl's ruin. The superintendent promptly instituted a suit

for libel against the Times. The managers of the paper, after taking pains to make particular inquiries into the case, decided to make a retraction of the charges. In the issue of the Times of June seventeenth the following language is used in speaking of this subject:

"The Times has convinced itself that Mr. and Mrs. Hooker have in every way dealt honorably with the girl and that her downfall was in no way due to them, and we take great pleasure in making a full and complete retraction of every charge or insinuation contained in the published articles, so far as they reflect on Mr. and Mrs. Hooker, which, by peculiar misinformation, appearing at the time to be from a reliable source, has brought about this grave error. Mr. and Mrs. Hooker bear an excellent reputation in Gowanda. No one there believes that they have been in any manner to blame in the matter, but, on the contrary, it is said by all that they are utterly incapable of the acts reported of them."

The girl referred to was discharged from the asylum between the first and twenty-fourth of April last, and was at that time about 17 years old. She had been, with the exception of a short period, when permitted to visit Indian friends, an inmate of the institution since she was a young girl. She gave birth to a male child the fifteenth of September last, at the Homoeopathic Hospital in Buffalo, where she had been since July 1, 1893. The child died on the seventeenth of September and was buried in the Potter's field. Its mother was admitted to the Homoeopathic Hospital on the order of the superintendent of the poor of Erie county, and the hospital charge for her care and treatment was four dollars a week. With a view to protecting the public from the expense attending this case, the superintendent of the poor of Erie county, Adam Rehm, visited the Cattaraugus reservation and endeavored to fix the responsibility for this great wrong; but was unable, he says, to obtain any reliable evidence in the matter.

The isolated situation of this institution, the peculiar nature of its work, and the scandals that have recently been current respecting its interior management naturally suggest the question

whether it is practicable to retain the two sexes in this institution after reaching maturity without being liable to a recurrence of the incidents that have brought reproach upon a most worthy charity, and mortification to all concerned in conducting it. I have reached the conclusion that the following changes are desirable in the management of this institution and in the policy of the State in its wardship over the young Indians within its borders. I therefore recommend:

First. That, in view of the difficulties encountered at present in protecting girls in the institution after having reached the age of maturity, they be removed as soon as they arrive at that age and placed in the care of reliable Indian friends or relatives, if they have such, and if they have not, in the families of white people, where their education may be continued and the guardianship of the asylum be continued over them until they have reached the age of womanhood or become settled in life, the asylum paying, if need be, a moderate sum for their board; or, if, on the contrary, their services command remuneration, that a portion of their wages be reserved by the asylum on the plan adopted by the Connecticut State Industrial School for Girls, and paid to the asylum wards after the girls have been settled in life. In removing the mature girls, as proposed, I am aware that the per capita expense of maintenance would be increased, but I am satisfied that the advantages gained by this course would more than compensate for the increased expense.

Second. That the State proceed at once to establish a State industrial school for Indian boys and young men living on the several State reservations, where they may be given instruction in mechanic arts, particularly in carpentering, masonry and plastering and also in agriculture, so that they may be qualified for building houses and properly cultivating farms, thus making them self-supporting and capable of improving the reservation lands. After the establishment of such a school, the Indian boys, as they reach maturity, should be transferred thereto from the asylum and given an opportunity to learn a trade and acquire a practical knowledge

of farming. If the school were conducted upon the system adopted in the State Industrial School at Rochester, in view of the intuitive love of the Indian for carving and working in wood and for the plastic arts, such an enterprise, if rightly undertaken, would be attended, it is believed, with unqualified success. For the carrying out of a project to establish such an industrial school there is no doubt but that the Indians would consent to set apart a suitable tract of land on the Cattaraugus reservation. After the establishment of a separate industrial school for boys and young men, older girls, with boys who had not reached maturity, could with propriety be retained in the asylum under the watchful supervision of their own sex.

Third. That a teacher be employed to impart kindergarten instruction to the younger children and that instruction in cooking and housekeeping by class, under a special teacher employed for the purpose, be imparted to the older girls.

Fourth. That, when vacancies shall hereafter occur in the present board of managers, either by resignation or death, or expiration of office, the vacancies thus created be filled by women until there shall be at least two women managers on the board. The great benefits that resulted to this institution from the appointment of that devoted, earnest and wise missionary, Mrs. Asher Wright, during the few years she held this position preceding her demise in 1886, are sufficient warranty that the interests of the State would be greatly promoted by having at least two discreet and philanthropic women appointed on the board of managers.

There is now a large discrepancy between the sums allowed by the Legislature for the support and education of the inmates of the Thomas Asylum and those in the institutions for the deaf and dumb and blind. In the former the amount allowed, including the salaries of teachers, is \$110 per annum, and in the latter it is \$250 per annum. I do not think that a proper standard of care and instruction can be given the inmates of the Thomas Asylum unless the appropriation for their maintenance be increased.

The Western New York Society for the Protection of Homeless and Dependent Children.

(Randolph.)

Incorporated 1878. Hon. Wm. H. Henderson, president; Charles Merrill, secretary and treasurer.

This society maintains at Randolph, in Cattaraugus county, an institution popularly designated as the Randolph Home, which is pleasantly situated in the midst of improved and well-kept grounds. The main structure is of brick, and is three stories high above the basement. The building first occupied by the society was destroyed by fire in 1880; the present edifice was opened for the reception of inmates in May, 1882. There are two detached cottages for babies. The schoolhouse, standing a little apart from the main building, was completed in the spring of 1893 at a cost of \$12,000. It is substantially built of brick and stone, has a slate roof and steel ceilings, and is quite secure against fire. The two schoolrooms on the first floor have a seating capacity for 125 pupils. There is in addition a recitation-room on the first floor. The floor above is designed for a chapel and Sunday-school room, and the attic floor for a gymnasium. The basement is intended to be used for industrial instruction. In a frame building, formerly used as a schoolhouse, arrangements have been made to establish a kindergarten. The children showed creditable proficiency in their studies, especially in drawing, and the elementary branches, including writing and spelling.

The affairs of the society are directed by a board of thirteen trustees, assisted by a board of lady managers, most of whom reside in the western part of the State. The trustees are elected annually by life directors and members of the society. The payment of fifty dollars constitutes a person a life director in the society and the payment of fifteen dollars a life membership. Of both life directors and life members there are large numbers residing in the various counties of western New York and a few in other States of the Union.

The home is under the immediate charge of Miss Celia Bennett, matron. The subordinate force consists of two school teachers, three seamstresses, a nurse for the infirmary ward, four nurses

for small children, two women in the laundry, one woman in the scullery, one woman having charge of the dormitories, one special care-taker of children after school hours, one cook, and one outside man to care for the grounds and stock.

The institution was visited July 20, 1893. The inmates at that time numbered 111. Of the older children, forty-three were boys and thirty-seven were girls. There were nineteen of both boys and girls classed as nursery children, and in one of the cottages were six babies under 8 months, and in the other were six little ones from 11-2 to 5 years old. The number of children for whom some compensation was received from friends was sixty-four and from counties twenty-eight. There were nineteen for whom no compensation whatever was received. Several of the children were defective — one was suffering from consumption and another from partial paralysis. The provision made for the care of the sick and delicate is very satisfactory. There were two children in the infirmary rooms at the time of my visit, but they were only slightly ill. The number of children received during the year ending September 30, 1893, was seventy-nine; the number returned to parents or guardians, fifty-five, and the number that had died, three.

The children were variously dressed, as in ordinary life. Their hair was well combed, and they appeared to be clean and healthy. Those having a fondness for plants are allotted a bit of ground and encouraged to cultivate flowers and vegetables. The boys are allowed to go barefoot in hot weather; the girls wear shoes and stockings at all seasons. The children were seen at dinner, which consisted of beef stew, boiled potatoes, fresh onions, bread, ginger cookies and cheese. For breakfast on the same day were supplied pancakes with sugar, warmed-up potatoes, milk, and "cocoa-shell coffee." The supper consisted of brown and white bread, butter, ginger cookies and apple-sauce. Some cows are kept on the place, the milk from which is all used in the institution.

The dormitories were well aired. Nearly all the bedsteads had woven-wire bottoms, and the beds were neatly made up and comfortable. The air-space in these rooms, however, is below the

statutory requirement of 600 cubic feet for each child. Fire-escapes should be provided without delay, as the means of escape from the upper floors of the institution in case of fire are now inadequate. The buildings are heated by coal-stoves. Respecting air-space and fire-escapes the secretary and treasurer wrote me, under date of December fourth, as follows:

"We are expecting to add verandas to the new addition and have stairways from them leading to the ground. With such an arrangement the chances of escape from a fire will be nearly perfect. In regard to the dormitories, the doors leading into the halls are all opened when the children retire. This, with the flue in the chimney, keeps the air from being vitiated. As we have no adjoining buildings, being entirely exposed on all sides, the air seems very good. I have given this considerable attention whenever I have been in the building and found but little cause for complaint. Again, we have very little illness, and that not of a serious nature. Of the many hundred children cared for we have never lost a child over 2 years of age. We are in hopes that we shall be able to improve the institution still further as the years go by."

Water is supplied from the East Randolph water-works by a three-inch pipe, and there is a hydrant for fire purposes near the buildings. The bathrooms and lavatories are furnished with hot and cold water.

The sewage is carried away by means of vitrified pipes with cemented joints.

There is need for more land for pasturing cows and for gardening. Only an acre is now appropriated to the latter use and the soil is entirely unsuited to the purpose. There are only ten acres in the whole property, and so small an area is insufficient for the wants of the institution.

Numerous improvements have been made to the home within the past few years, which have greatly added to its healthfulness, convenient management and attractiveness. The asylum staff appeared to be composed of earnest women devoted to their work and faithful in the discharge of their duties. The house was found to be in good order throughout.

The Women's Educational and Industrial Union of Buffalo.

(Niagara square.)

This association was organized in 1884 and incorporated in 1885. Its officers are Mrs. George W. Townsend, president; Mrs. Benjamin H. Williams, Mrs. Porter Norton and Mrs. P. H. Griffin, vice-presidents; Mrs. Ellie J. Shepard, recording secretary; Mrs. Arthur W. Austin, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. Henry Rumrill, treasurer.

The object of the association is "to increase fellowship among women, in order to promote the best practical methods for securing their educational, industrial and social advancement." A successful effort was made to draw together Protestant, Hebrew and Catholic women to work on a broad basis in lines not before attempted by any association in the city. Rooms in the Fitch Institute building were offered free of rent by the Charity Organization Society, and were occupied for two years. In 1886 the Babcock property, corner of Delaware avenue and Niagara square, was purchased, and the old family mansion refitted for the needs of the union's work. The stable was converted into a Sargent gymnasium for women and children. In 1889 the union celebrated its fifth anniversary and rejoiced in freedom from debt. The work had so increased that more room was required. In 1891 two gifts were bestowed by generous Buffalo women—\$10,000 to build a new hall and \$5,000 to add and equip a domestic training-school. The decision was made to take down the old house and erect an entirely new building in its place. In August, 1892, the work was begun and is nearly accomplished.

On the first floor above the basement are to be found the office, library, study, director's parlor and the new hall, with seating capacity for 600. The second floor has rooms for class and philanthropic work and a large room intended in the future for a library and museum. The domestic training department is on the third and fourth floors, and includes a well-equipped laundry and kitchen, a large lecture-room and kitchen-garden apartment, which will afford facilities for giving instruction to 100 children. By means of sliding partitions the room can be available for several classes at once. There are

studios and offices to let, and from the income thus derived the protective and philanthropic work will be sustained.

Through the exercise of wise discretion and energetic effort the union has, in its ten years of existence, accomplished marvelous results. Its protective committee has collected, without charge, wages due to poor and friendless women amounting to the sum of \$9,000. It has established and maintained a Sargent gymnasium for women and children, where, in addition to the usual exercises, cases of physical deformity have received remedial treatment. Courses of lectures have been given by prominent physicians, men and women. The employment bureau has found positions for 4,067 women without charge to employer or employee. The department of domestic training has instructed 700 children in household work. The new school will be conducted on the Pratt Institute methods, and the aim is to give practical, intelligent instruction and training in those special subjects which must be considered in the administration of the home. The pupils are from all classes. The children of the kitchen-garden are from families referred to us by the Charity Organization Society, and a number of them are promoted every year into cooking classes. The educational committee has conducted a free coterie for the discussion of vital topics, and classes in dressmaking, arithmetic, reading, penmanship, typewriting, stenography and bookkeeping. In ten years nearly 2,000 women have enjoyed these privileges. The committee on practical philanthropy befriends union members and has rendered substantial aid to more than 1,000 persons. It now co-operates with the Charity Organization Society, and furnishes food and clothing and weekly visitation to thirty poor families. Social and literary entertainments of a high order have been given monthly from November to May for the last ten years. A free library is open week days and Sundays.

Through the influence of the union, two women trustees have been placed on the board of managers of the Buffalo State Hospital for the Insane, and two laws passed by the Legislature — the first securing the appointment of an educated woman physician on the medical staff of every insane hospital in the State; the

second giving the mother equal rights with the father in the care and custody of her children. It has also secured the appointment of one woman on the board of school examiners.

The union depends for its support upon annual and sustaining membership dues and individual gifts. Its membership roll numbers 1,000 names. With the completion of its stately edifice on Niagara square will be inaugurated the second decade, and through its increased facilities the union will be enabled to reach out in new and broader fields to help humanity.

The Working Boys' Home of Buffalo.

(35 Niagara square.)

This home was incorporated in 1889. It is governed by a board of seven managers, of which the Rt. Rev. Bishop Ryan is president and Michael Noonan is secretary. Rev. Daniel Walsh is superintendent, and has the immediate charge of the home. Four sisters of the Roman Catholic order of the Sisters of St. Joseph assume charge of the domestic department and the night school. The objects of the home are to provide a temporary home in the city of Buffalo for working boys, and to instruct them with a view to their industrial, religious and moral duties, in order that they may become good and useful citizens.

The building occupied is of brick, three stories high, and was formerly a spacious family dwelling. It is supplied with city water, lighted by gas and heated by hot air. The building has capacity for twenty-seven boys.

At the time of my visit, September eighteenth, there were twenty-seven inmates, ranging in age from 12 to 17 years. Included among them were one Swede, one German, one Italian and one English lad. The remainder were Irish, Germans and Americans. A good many of the boys attend the public night school; the others are taught by the sisters in an evening school conducted at the home. The maximum charge to inmates is two dollars a week, which includes washing and mending. If

unable to pay this sum they give what they can, but are expected in every case to pay something. All enter the home voluntarily. One of the boys who had been in the home about four years had, during that time, learned a branch of surveying. Seven or eight, who had been inmates something over two years, were learning plumbing, gasfitting and printing trades. Others, younger, were working in offices and stores as cash boys, parcel carriers, or in other similar employments. None were selling newspapers.

The boys rise at 6, breakfast at half-past 6, after which a short morning prayer is offered in the dining-room. Most of the boys then go to their place of work. Some take their dinners; others return to the home for it, where it is served at 12.20. Supper is had at 6.30. At 9 o'clock night prayers are said, after which all retire. A Sunday service is held at 7 o'clock a. m., after which the boys are free for the day. A serious discourse is given to the boys when assembled on Monday evenings. On one evening of the week they are permitted to stay out with friends until 11 o'clock.

On the day of my visit the dietary was as follows: For breakfast, bread, butter, coffee and warmed-up potatoes; for dinner, meat, potatoes, vegetables and pudding; for supper, bread and butter, mashed potatoes and cold meat. Sometimes crackers, cakes and sweetmeats are supplied. Bread is furnished by the sisters of St. Vincent's Orphan Asylum.

In the parlor there is a piano. In the schoolroom in the rear of the parlor there is an organ. This is a pleasant apartment, with pictures on the walls. Here is a long table for evening reading. The boys sit on chairs in the dining-room and are supplied with napkins. The bedsteads are of iron, with husk or fiber mattresses, and they appeared to be comfortable. Each inmate has a separate place for his clothes. The bathing facilities are ample. Each boy has a towel for his exclusive use. In an adjoining building there is a playroom, above which is the chapel.

The house was well kept and presented an air of neatness and comfort throughout. The inmates were comfortably clothed and appeared to be well cared for and healthy. The institution is supplying a much-needed place among the city charities.

Wyoming Benevolent Institute.

(Near Portageville, Wyoming county.)

This institution was incorporated in 1870. Its affairs are directed by a board of five trustees, of which Ogden P. Letchworth is president; Samuel C. Adams, secretary; and H. R. Howland, treasurer. Its objects are to benefit dependent children and indigent young persons, chiefly by providing a summer residence for children at Prospect Home Villa, and by maintaining a free public library. The building used for children is a capacious two-story structure with broad porches, and is situated in the midst of romantic scenery on a high promontory in a bend of the Genesee river, between the lower and the middle falls. The elevated site affords immunity from all miasmatic influences. The house is abundantly supplied with pure spring water. Near by are shaded groves and woodlands affording delightful rambles for the children and opportunities for berrying and nutting. During the present year 102 children, with their care-takers, have received the benefits of this charity. The work is supported by voluntary contributions.

Buffalo City Dispensary.

Organized in 1852 and incorporated in 1859. Leon F. Harvey, president; L. S. Webster, secretary; and James E. Ford, treasurer.

In 1859 the work of the dispensary and that of the Buffalo Society for the Relief of the Poor were united under one board of trustees, each corporation having its president and secretary with the same treasurer acting for both.

The object of the united societies is to afford relief and medical treatment to such worthy poor as are temporarily in need and are not on the list of public dependents. The Society for the Relief of the Poor has an invested fund of \$5,140, and the dispensary \$1,500. The work is limited to the expenditure of the interest on these invested funds.

The following medical men give their gratuitous service and are authorized by resolution of the board of managers to order prescriptions from certain druggists up to a specified amount to cases of needful charity: Dispensary physicians, Drs. De Witt H. Sherman, William Ring, J. Hauenstein, J. B. Samo, and F. C. Gott; consulting surgeons, Drs. Roswell Park and John Parmenter; consulting physicians, Drs. De Lancy Rochester and R. H. Hopkins.

No business office is maintained in connection with the work.

Buffalo Eye and Ear Infirmary.

(673 Michigan street, near Genesee.)

Incorporated in 1876. It is controlled by a board of seven trustees, of which Dr. C. C. Wyckoff is president and Dr. Lucien Howe, secretary. Its medical staff, serving gratuitously, consists of Drs. Roswell Park, C. E. Rider and Floyd S. Crego, consultants; Drs. Lucien Howe, H. Y. Grant, Gustav A. Hitzel and A. I. Drake, surgeons in charge of the eye and ear department; Drs. W. S. Renner and C. O. Chester, surgeons in charge of the throat department.

The infirmary was established for the purpose of affording medical relief and surgical treatment to diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat at the infirmary, the general hospital and at the homes of patients. The outdoor department occupies the entire lower floor of the infirmary building and the main floor of the addition thereto. There is, besides, another room, which is often used for those requiring operations. The effort is made to restrict the treatment of patients to the poor, who are cared for gratuitously. The managers say, however, that "the cases are not rare in which the appearance of the patient is such as to show that he does not deserve to receive the benefactions of a public institution, and, whenever such cases occur, an attempt is made to refer the patient back to the family physician, or to some other proper person, for special recommendation. It is probable, however, that here, as elsewhere, abuse of the charity occasionally occurs, but this is almost impossible to avoid where large numbers must be cared for, many of whom come in a condition which requires

immediate attention." Medicines are furnished free only in cases of unusual poverty.

During the present year an indoor department has been established, and some cases have been thus treated, the charge to patients being six dollars a week, which includes food and washing.

The trustees make the following report of their work:

Number of new cases admitted during the last fiscal year,	1,425
There were of these suffering from diseases of the eye ..	833
From diseases of the ear	163
From diseases of the nose and throat	429
Number of visits made by patients	11,652
Number of visits made to patients at home or at the hospital	88
Number of patients admitted since the opening of the institution	12,238
Number of visits to them at home or at the hospital. ...	3,071
Number of visits by them to the infirmary	114,365
Total number of operations performed	2,998

The infirmary is supported by voluntary contributions and appropriations from the board of supervisors, which is authorized by the Legislature to make an annual appropriation not exceeding \$2,500. The last appropriation, made about a year ago, was \$600.

Buffalo General Hospital.

(100 High street, Buffalo.)

This hospital was incorporated in 1855. It is managed by a board of twenty-one trustees, of which Trueman G. Avery is president; Charles Robert Wilson, secretary; and Edward R. Spaulding, treasurer. Co-operating with the board of trustees is an organization of ladies known as the Ladies' Hospital Association, which is composed of about fifty managers representing the various Protestant churches of Buffalo, as also the temple of Beth Zion, and the Home for the Friendless. Mrs. Elisha T.

Smith is president of the association; Mrs. Frank W. Abbott, secretary; and Mrs. Trueman G. Avery, treasurer. The ladies have an executive committee, two members of which are in active service at a time and for but two consecutive months of the year. This committee acts conjointly with the executive committee of the board of trustees.

The institution is under the immediate charge of Dr. Renwick R. Ross, superintendent, who is aided by a corps of nurses, of which Miss Gross, a graduate of the Boston City Hospital, is the superintendent. At the date of my visit, September ninth, there were forty nurses in training, besides one head nurse and one night superintendent, who are graduates. The medical staff is constituted as follows: Consulting physicians, Drs. Cornelius C. Wyckoff, Conrad Diehl and M. B. Folwell; consulting surgeons, Drs. John Hauenstein and Devillo W. Harrington; gynecologist and obstetrician, Dr. Matthew D. Mann; attending physicians, Drs. Charles Cary, Henry R. Hopkins and Charles G. Stockton; attending surgeons, Drs. William C. Phelps, Stephen Y. Howell, Roswell Park, Frank W. Abbott and Lucien Howe; all of whom serve gratuitously. Dr. John V. Woodruff is house physician and Dr. Gustave A. Hitzel is house surgeon.

The training-school for nurses was first established in the Buffalo General Hospital in 1877 through the active interest taken in the subject by two of its old-time revered workers, Mrs. John B. Skinner and Mrs. Thomas F. Rochester. In that year Miss Gray, a graduate of the justly celebrated pioneer training-school of Bellevue Hospital in New York, was engaged to instruct a class in nursing. She began the work with five pupils. The following information respecting the present system of training and nursing and the rules governing the work was obtained from Miss Gross:

From among the corps of nurses is selected a head nurse for each ward, who is responsible, under the superintendent of nurses, for the management of the ward, the carrying out of the physicians' orders, the condition of the patients and the watchfulness exercised over them, and for the keeping up of supplies. The head nurses are seldom graduates, but are usually selected

from among the older of those in training — those who have had larger experience and who show a special aptitude and ability for the work. There are as many assistant nurses to each ward as are deemed necessary by the superintendent of nurses, and these are assigned their duties by the head nurse of the ward. They make the beds, dust the furniture, carry the food to the patients, and feed those who are not able to feed themselves; in general terms, they do the work of caring for the patients. In the administering of medicines, the nurses follow the written orders of the physicians and make a record of having done so. There is an average of one maid to each ward, who washes windows and does other cleaning, assists in sweeping, washing dishes, helps set the trays under the direction of the nurse, and performs other routine duties, thus enabling the nurses while on duty to give their undivided attention to the care of the patients. There is also a special woman to mop the floors. In the male wards is a force of five orderlies, who bathe and wait upon the male patients. The head orderly is a German, who has been at least ten years in the hospital. He formerly served in a hospital in Vienna, under the distinguished surgeon, Billoth, where he had large experience in nursing. He renders efficient assistance in the surgical-room, and his services are regarded as invaluable to the hospital. The orderlies are not incorporated in the training-school.

The day nurses are on duty from 7 a. m. until 7 p. m., with an hour off each day in addition to meal hours. They are allowed one-half day each week and half of Sunday, the condition of the work permitting. Each nurse is obliged to serve not less than three nor more than four months on night duty during the course of training. The term of instruction covers a period of two years, at the expiration of which time each nurse who passes the examination prescribed by the medical staff is entitled to a diploma bearing the seal of the hospital. Instruction is imparted by the superintendent of nurses and by members of the medical and visiting staffs. Lectures are given upon the general principles of nursing, the diet of the sick, etc., and the nurses are taught at the bedside how to dress and bandage wounds and broken limbs and make the rollers for the same, how to apply poultices, blisters and fomentations, to make beds, change draw-sheets, etc.

Applicants for admission to the training-school are not admitted under 22 nor over 35 years of age. Each applicant must have received a good common school education, and she is required to present a satisfactory testimonial of her good character. She must also satisfy the conference committee as to her physical ability for the work of nursing, and must be not less than five feet two inches in height. All are received on one month's probation. Those who, at the expiration of the month, show an aptitude for the work, and prove satisfactory as to intellectual, moral and physical ability are allowed to adopt the uniform of the school, which consists of a plainly made dress of a medium shade of navy blue seersucker with white stripes, a white muslin cap with one ruffle, plain linen collars and cuffs, and white apron. The nurses dress the hair plainly, combing it high underneath the cap, and wear plain, common-sense shoes. The graduates wear neckerchiefs and black bands around their caps, but no distinction is made between the dress of the head nurses and that of the assistants. The superintendent is at liberty to dress in accordance with her own tastes. The rules relating to dress are not binding after one graduates and leaves the hospital.

While in training at the hospital the nurses are allowed board and washing, and after the first month they receive nine dollars a month; and after the first year twelve dollars a month. This, however, is not regarded as a compensating salary, but simply as a recognition of services rendered.

In addition to the weekly class recitations conducted by the superintendent of nurses, and the course of lectures delivered by the medical and visiting staffs, the nurses have the advantage of clinical instruction and are permitted to witness the examinations made and the surgical operations performed by eminent surgeons at the hospital. In the Gates cottage, the means to build which were given by Mrs. Sarah A. Gates, are performed operations in laparotomy, and the nurses have special training here. This cottage is a spacious, well-lighted and well-ventilated one-story structure, with accommodation for six patients, and provided with an operating-room and all necessary surgical appliances. All of the nurses have more or less experience in the con-

tagious disease pavilion. Two nurses are always in attendance in the surgical operating-room, whose duty it is to prepare the dressings and the instruments and to make general preparations for the surgical operations. After the operations are performed they clean the instruments and put the room in order. The instruments are washed, boiled, scrubbed, sterilized, dried, and carefully put away. Miss Gross said that the advantages afforded the nurses at the Buffalo General Hospital for witnessing the treatment of a large number of cases were very great, as patients were brought there from all parts of the country. She alluded to the favorable mention made of the standard of this institution in comparison with the Charing Cross Hospital, London, by some English nurses from the latter institution recently visiting Buffalo.

The nurses are also instructed in the theory and practice of cooking, lessons in cooking being given, and all nurses being obliged to serve one month each in the diet-kitchen in preparing desserts and special diets for private patients, and beef tea, chicken broth, etc., for all the patients. Two nurses and a maid are required to be on duty in the diet-kitchen. The meals for the ward patients, the house diets for the private patients, and the family diets are prepared in the general kitchen, where two hired cooks are employed.

The original plan of the hospital embraced a central or administration building with a right and left wing—all of brick. The right, or west wing, two stories high above the basement, was the first structure erected. This was opened for the reception of patients July 15, 1858. The central portion, three stories high above the basement, was erected in 1880. In the place of the left wing the Gates cottage, already referred to, was erected. In the rear of this in 1888 a frame cottage was built by the Misses Kimberly and their sister, Mrs. William H. Walker, as a memorial to their father, John L. Kimberly. It is a two-story structure containing twelve rooms, a diet-kitchen, bathroom, fumigating-room, and other accessories to a complete ward for treating contagious diseases, for which purpose it is used. Rearward of this is an extensive laundry well arranged for drying and airing clothes upon the roof in dry weather.

In the rear of the main hospital is the Nurses' Home, a substantial three-story brick building, likewise given by Mrs. Gates. It has comfortable and spacious accommodations for thirty-eight nurses. With few exceptions each nurse has her own room. There is a sitting-room on each floor, besides a library and one general sitting-room or parlor on the first floor. The building is lighted by electricity and heated by steam, and has in addition open fires in the sitting-rooms. A bathroom and flush closets are on each floor. The nurses take their meals in the hospital. There are no outside fire-escapes to this building, and it would seem that some should be supplied at once, especially as there is but one exit therefrom. This quiet and comfortable retreat from hospital cares is much prized by the nurses, who, in recognition of the generosity of Mrs. Gates, have caused to be placed upon the walls a suitably inscribed commemorative tablet.

The hospital is supplied with city water, but being in the highest part of the city it is necessary to use a steam force-pump to carry water sufficiently high to protect it against fire. The buildings are heated by steam, lighted by electricity, and are in communication with the city sewerage system. The hospital has its own ambulance always in readiness for emergency cases, and is in telephone communication with the Fitch Emergency Hospital.

At the date of my visit the whole number of patients was 109. Of these there were in private rooms and private wards, twenty-seven; in children's wards, seven; in the women's wards, twenty-three; in the typhoid ward, thirteen; in the men's medical ward, ten; and in the men's surgical ward, twenty-seven.

Since the institution was first planned great advances have been made in hospital construction, and the main hospital building fails to meet the requirements of modern science, and is not sufficiently capacious for the demands made upon it by a large and growing city. Some of its wards are too contracted; especially is this the case in the surgical ward, into which difficult cases find admission from a large district of country about Buffalo, attracted thither by the skill of its medical staff. For lack of room one of the corridors must be used as a chapel. The plan of

construction is such that the proper ventilation of its main wards is difficult, if not impracticable. It is necessary to use the basements for purposes for which they should never be used. In these unsatisfactory quarters there are eight sleeping-rooms, also the kitchen, the odors from which must find their way into the rooms above.

The hospital was found to be clean and in order, and the best results were attained that could be under the circumstances.

The following statistics will give some idea of the work of this noble charity: The number of patients admitted to the hospital during the preceding fiscal year was 2,009; the total sum expended during the same period was \$55,634.91; the total number of patients admitted since the institution was first opened till January 1, 1893, was 21,441.

Buffalo Homœopathic Hospital.

(74 Cottage street, corner of Maryland.)

This hospital was incorporated in 1872. It is under the control of a board of fifteen gentlemen trustees, who are assisted by an associate board of lady managers numbering fifty-two. Of the first-named board, F. M. Inglehart is president; Charles F. Dunbar, secretary; and H. W. Burt, treasurer. The president of the ladies' board is Mrs. C. E. Selkirk; the secretary, Mrs. E. J. North; and the treasurer, Mrs. D. E. Kenyon. The executive board is composed of twelve ladies, who meet weekly. The six visiting physicians are Drs. Edward A. Fisher, George R. Stearns, John S. Halbert, Burt J. Maycock, Maurice F. Linguist and Elisha P. Hussey; and the three visiting surgeons, Drs. George F. Moseley, Henry C. Frost and Alexander M. Curtiss. All serve gratuitously. The hospital is under the immediate charge of Mrs. Elizabeth Brainard. The resident house physician is Dr. D. Young. There is a training-school department, having nineteen nurses, of which Miss Wing, a graduate nurse, is superintendent. The subordinate force consists of a housekeeper, two male nurses, one male helper, and nine housemaids.

The building was formerly a large private residence, to which additions have been made, creating a capacity for fifty patients.

Its location on a street corner and its isolation from other buildings give it light and air from every side. Detached from the main building is a two-story cottage for the nurses. The hospital is connected with the city telephone system and has its own ambulance.

The hospital was visited September ninth. It then contained thirty-two patients. All the private rooms were occupied. For a short time prior to my visit city patients had not been received in consequence of a lack of appropriations for their maintenance. There were sixteen city patients, for whom six dollars a week were paid; and three county patients, for whom four dollars a week were received. The rates for private patients vary from seven to twenty dollars a week, according to accommodations. With a paid nurse in constant attendance, the rate is eight dollars a week more. The number of patients received during the year was 338.

The nurses wear a dress of blue with white stripes. They have white aprons, white armlets and white caps. The seniors, comprising those who have served not less than one year, wear black bands on their caps. After the first year they are sent out to nurse in private families and their earnings go to support the training-school. At the end of two years the nurses receive \$100 each. While in the school they are supplied, free of charge, with their uniforms, consisting of four dresses, twelve aprons, twelve pairs of armlets, and caps. They are maintained at the hospital and supplied with books free. They attend regular courses of lectures and are required to spend one month under training in the diet kitchen.

Respecting the qualifications of nurses Mrs. Brainard said: "After making application they are examined by three physicians as to their health and education, and are taken on trial for three months. At the end of that time, if found satisfactory, they sign a contract agreeing to stay two years and abide by the rules of the house. If they graduate they are given a diploma. Applicants must have a good strong constitution, and must be healthy. A good common school education is requisite to admission, and many are rejected on account of not having this qualification or good health."

The present building having been found much too small and in many respects unsuited to the demands made upon it, a new site has been purchased on a lot bounded by Richmond, Clinton, and Delavan avenues, upon which it is proposed to erect a hospital which shall be constructed upon the most advanced principles. It is designed upon the pavilion plan and consists of a series of cottages connected by corridors. A sum deemed sufficient to warrant a commencement of the building the coming year has been raised.

The bread used here was made from flour costing five dollars and twenty-five cents a barrel, and was of unexceptionable quality.

A thorough inspection was made of the institution, and it was found to be scrupulously clean and well kept. The building, not having been constructed for a hospital, is inconvenient and its interior spaces are cramped and inadequate to its uses, but its management is worthy of commendation.

Buffalo Hospital of the Sisters of Charity.

(1833 Main street, Buffalo.)

This is the oldest hospital in Buffalo, having been incorporated in 1849. It was formerly located on Main street, near the medical college, but, in 1872, the demands upon the sisters made it necessary to select another site, with the intention of erecting a building thereon in keeping with the progress of the times. The foundation of the present edifice was laid in 1875. The building cost \$163,368, of which it was necessary to borrow \$40,000, thus creating a debt which still remains and stands in the way of completing the hospital upon its original plan. The buildings, as originally planned, embraced a main structure three stories high, besides the Mansard roof and basement, with wings to right and left. The north wing is still unbuilt.

The hospital is under the direction of sixteen sisters of the Roman Catholic order of Sisters of Charity, Sister Florence holding the office of sister superior and Sister Angela that of secretary, the whole forming a board of management under a superior-general. Under the direction of the sisters are seven trained nurses,

some of whom have graduated as such. At the end of two years' training the nurses are awarded diplomas. There are also in service six male nurses. The medical and surgical staff, all serving gratuitously, is made up as follows: Dr. J. Cronyn, physician in chief; Drs. Matthew Willoughby, Henry C. Buswell, Floyd S. Crego and Sydney A. Dunham, assistants; Dr. H. Mynter, surgeon-in-chief, and Drs. William H. Heath, Henry D. Ingraham, Clayton M. Daniels, Herbert Mickle and Eugene A. Smith, assistants. There are three resident surgeons, namely, Drs. H. J. Newton, D. F. White and P. H. Honrigan.

The hospital was visited September sixth. There were at that date 180 patients, about two-thirds of whom were men and one-third women. The average number of patients in the hospital is about 194. Thirty-five of the patients, for whom the United States government allows eighty cents each a day, were in the marine ward. There were between thirty and forty city patients, for whom six dollars a week were allowed. In the surgical ward, always crowded, there were between thirty and thirty-five patients; in the two medical wards, fifteen patients each, besides two wards with women patients. There are twenty-five single rooms, the occupants of which pay various prices, according to accommodations and the patients' circumstances. There had been a great many cases of typhoid fever during the year, principally from the Hamburg canal district. The hospital is filled to its utmost capacity, and it is sometimes necessary to turn patients away. The north wing, as shown in the original plan of the hospital, is greatly needed. The rooms for clinics and surgical operations were undergoing changes so as to render them more convenient and accessible to the surgical ward.

The hospital occupies a healthful site. Water is supplied from the city, but it is not always to be had on the fourth floor, nor even on the third. In case of fire on these floors, reliance is had on the city fire department, and there should be electric communication with it. There are outside fire-escapes to each of the upper floors. The sewers connect with the city sewerage system. The system of heating is by steam with direct and indirect radiation. There are dining-rooms connected with each ward. The bread

used is supplied by the sisters of St. Vincent's Orphan Asylum. It was examined and found to be good. It was well baked and had a nice brown crust.

The books of the hospital for the first fourteen years of its existence were destroyed by fire and the records of admission were thus lost; but subsequent records show that between January, 1862, and March, 1893, the sisters received within their hospitable walls 32,305 patients. Of those recorded during the last sixteen years, or rather from 1876 to 1892, 6,234 were charity patients. The number of patients received during the year ending September 30, 1893, including those admitted to the emergency hospital, was 1,585. The magnitude of this work, as shown by these statistics, reflects lasting praise upon the sisters who devote their lives to the amelioration of human suffering.

EMERGENCY HOSPITAL.

This branch of the hospital has been established within recent years and has added much to the efficiency of the institution. It is situated on the corner of South Division and Michigan streets, and is designed exclusively for cases of accident and injury. The building is of brick, is two stories high, and was formerly a private residence. It is supplied with city water, is connected with the city sewerage system, is lighted by gas, and is heated by natural gas. The hospital is in the immediate charge of Dr. Frederick M. Boyle, house surgeon, who is assisted by three members of a graduating class of medical students, who serve in turn. A Sister of Charity comes here from the main hospital early in the morning and remains during the day. There are two male nurses and two female cooks. The hospital is connected with the city telephone system and has a two-horse ambulance always in readiness for call. There is one ward having ten or twelve beds, one room with three beds, and another with two beds. There were six patients in the house at the time of my visit, December twenty-seventh. All patients are transferred as soon as they are able to be removed, except railroad cases, which are retained until their recovery or death. The number of admissions averages about two cases a day. The

conditions upon which patients are cared for are regulated by the hospital proper. Dr. Boyle said it was usual to have several cases of suicide on Christmas day, but this year they had none. They were generally of women whose lives were wrecked.

The Buffalo Ophthalmic Hospital.

(47 Huron street.)

This institution, under the homoeopathic school of management, was incorporated January 6, 1893. It occupies two rooms — one a reception and the other an examination room. These are open to patients from 3 to 4 p. m. and 7 to 8 p. m. The hospital is under the patronage of twenty citizens of Buffalo, not physicians, who see that the expenses of the work are duly met. The president of the board of trustees is Wm. H. Gratwick; secretary and treasurer, Wm. Y. Warren. The physicians rendering their services gratuitously are Drs. F. Park Lewis, W. A. M. Hadley, Fred. D. Lewis and A. Wilson Dods, active staff; and Drs. A. R. Wright, H. C. Frost, L. A. Bull and T. J. Martin, consulting staff.

The object of the institution is to assist the deserving poor and at the same time not pauperize them, but enable them to preserve their self-respect. Each case treated is paid for by the patient, consideration being taken of his means, income and the number of his family. If the applicant can pay regular rates he is not received for treatment, but referred to some specialist. So far the hospital has received no public aid. It is thought that, after a time, it will become self-supporting. Between June 1, 1892, when the institution was first opened, and December 5, 1893, 350 new cases were received and over 1,100 prescriptions given.

The Buffalo Woman's Hospital.

(191 Georgia street.)

The Buffalo Woman's Hospital was organized in 1891. Although not incorporated, the beneficent aid it extends to persons in indigent circumstances makes it seem fitting to include it in the

list of Buffalo medical charities. It is under the professional direction and management of Drs. Thomas Lothrop and C. C. Frederick, who are aided by a consulting staff consisting of Drs. W. S. Tremaine, Herman Myntner, Rollin L. Banta, Henry C. Buswell, Wm. Warren Potter, Herbert Mickle, Eugene A. Smith, and Walter D. Green. The attending obstetrician and gynecologist is Dr. Carlton C. Frederick, and the clinical assistants, Drs. Jacob F. Meyer and Wm. G. Taylor. The house is under the immediate charge of Mrs. Harriet D. Storck, a graduate of the Buffalo General Hospital Training-School. Subordinate to her are five nurses in training. There are, besides, a housemaid, laundress and cook.

The objects of the hospital are twofold — the treatment of pregnant women and of diseases peculiar to women. Special hospitals of this class are now established in most of the American cities, and such a hospital has come to be recognized as a definite want in Buffalo. In addition to paying patients, for whom pleasant rooms are specially provided, worthy indigent women who are unable to pay for treatment and are suffering from any disease peculiar to their sex, and who can be relieved and restored to usefulness by surgical or medical aid, are received and cared for on the hospital wards free of expense. A dispensary for the treatment of diseases peculiar to women and diseases of children is maintained in connection with the hospital, which is free to the worthy poor. Thus far the hospital has been liberally sustained by private means. Since its opening its capacity has been increased one-third by the addition of another story, and it is not now equal to the demands made upon it.

The building is three stories high, and has a capacity for twenty-two beds. It is supplied with city water, lighted by gas, heated by hot-water pipes, and is connected with the telephone system.

The hospital was visited December twenty-seventh. At that date it contained twelve patients. The private rooms for paying patients, as well as the wards, are light and airy apartments, and are tastefully and comfortably furnished and supplied with the requisites to surgical cleanliness. The institution was cleanly and orderly kept and appeared to be well managed.

Charity Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital of Erie County.

(Corner of Main and East Huron streets, Buffalo.)

Incorporated in 1891, by the consolidation of the Erie County Eye, Ear and Throat Infirmary and the Samaritan Eye and Ear Infirmary, under the above title. Its object is the gratuitous treatment of indigent persons suffering from diseases, injuries, or imperfections of the eye, ear, nose, or throat. Its benefits are strictly for those who are unable to pay physicians' fees. Its affairs are directed by a board of nine managers, of which Charles B. Armstrong is president; Frank W. Abbott, M. D., secretary; and Augustus B. Kellogg, treasurer. Its medical staff is made up of the following named physicians, who serve gratuitously: Drs. Frank W. Abbott, Benjamin H. Grove, Alvin A. Hubbell and Elemer Starr, surgeons in eye and ear department; Drs. Arthur G. Bennett and Benjamin F. Rogers, assistant surgeons; Drs. Francis S. Metcalfe and Horace Clark, surgeons in nose and throat department; and Dr. Edgar J. Gilroy, assistant surgeon.

The hospital has been supported this year by an appropriation of \$600 made December 1, 1892, by the board of supervisors. Medicines are furnished free, but written prescriptions are usually paid for by the patients to the druggist who puts them up. The number of persons treated during the year was 969, of whom seventy-three were old patients.

Children's Hospital of Buffalo.

(219 Bryant street.)

The wards of this beautiful charity were opened for the reception of suffering children in September, 1892. Its affairs are directed by a board of twelve ladies, of which Mrs. George Truscott is president; Mrs. Bernard Bartow, secretary, and Miss Martha T. Williams, treasurer. Co-operating with this board is an advisory board of five gentlemen, two of whom are physicians.

The medical staff consists of Dr. Bainbridge Folwell, house physician; Dr. Bernard Bartow, orthopedic surgeon, and Dr. John Parmenter, general surgeon, all of whom serve gratuitously.

The hospital is situated in a pleasant and healthful locality. The building occupied is of brick and mostly of three stories. It is well lighted, and is attractive within and without. An addition has recently been made to the original structure, increasing its efficiency and enlarging its capacity to forty patients. The property belongs to a friend of the institution, who furnishes it free to the hospital and keeps it in repair.

The hospital is in immediate charge of Miss Emily Boswell, a graduate nurse of the Boston City Hospital. Her subordinate force, soon to be increased, consisted of four day assistants. A matron has charge of the housekeeping. There are also a laundress and a cook.

At the time of my visit, September eighteenth, the hospital contained nineteen children patients—thirteen boys and six girls—ranging in age from 1 year up to 14 years. Three of the children were Poles, two were Italians, one was a Swede, and four were Germans. Thirteen of the nineteen children were confined to their beds.

Children are received on the order of public officers of the poor, at five dollars a week. Parents able to pay for the care of their children are charged from five dollars to seven dollars a week. There are six free beds for 1893, and one that has been permanently endowed by Miss Martha T. Williams. Incurable cases are not received. If there is any hope of improving or curing a child it is retained until such improvement or cure is effected. Some have been kept ten months.

Natural gas is consumed in open fireplaces to aid ventilation and to make the apartments more cheery. The playroom is an airy apartment with glazed sash in two of its sides. The institution is furnished with baby-rollers, rocking-chairs, baby-tenders, carriages, wheel crutches, various kinds of cribs, and all the appurtenances of a modern hospital of its kind. A room in the basement is fitted up for out-patients—children who have been treated and are returned for inspection and adjustment of apparatus. If found necessary they are ordered back to the institution for treatment.

A careful inspection was made of the institution, and so far as could be judged its condition and management were above criti-

cism or profitable suggestion. The establishment of an institution for the special treatment of diseased and crippled children has been a need long felt in Buffalo, and its advent will be hailed with gladness by every philanthropist.

College Dispensary of the Medical Department of the Niagara University.

(203 Ellicott street.)

Incorporated 1884 as the Buffalo Medical and Surgical Dispensary. The dispensary is directed by a committee of the medical department of the Niagara University, consisting of Drs. Thomas Lothrop and H. D. Ingraham. Through this instrumentality the university aims to provide medical and surgical aid gratuitously to such worthy sick and indigent persons as are unable to pay for medical advice. Six rooms are set apart in the college building, 203 Ellicott street, for dispensary purposes. Medicines are furnished free, except for some diseases, for which pay is asked if the patient can afford it. The work is supported by voluntary contributions of the faculty of the Niagara University. About 1,500 patients were treated during 1893. The services of the medical staff are free. It is made up as follows: Surgery, Drs. Frederick Preiss, J. Henry Dowd and F. A. Hayes; medicine, Drs. Sidney A. Dunham, James P. Wilson and Robert L. Lounsberry; nervous diseases, Dr. Floyd S. Crego; diseases of the skin, Dr. D. L. Redmond; and diseases of women and children, Dr. Henry D. Ingraham.

Fitch Accident Hospital of the Charity Organization Society.

(Fitch Institute, 165 Swan street, Buffalo.)

The hospital is under the general direction of a committee of the council of the Charity Organization Society, of which George P. Sawyer is chairman. The staff of the hospital is made up as follows: Dr. John Parmenter, attending surgeon and medical director; Dr. Edward J. Meyer, assistant attending surgeon; Dr.

John H. Pryor, attending physician; Dr. Roswell Park, consulting surgeon; Dr. John J. Cullinane, house surgeon; Dr. Ernest Ruffner, junior house surgeon; Josephine F. Royan, supervising nurse.

The object of this branch of the Charity Organization Society is to provide temporary care and treatment for persons accidentally injured, confining its benefactions to emergency cases only. Indigent persons are received free, but a moderate charge is made to those able to pay. The principal part of the first floor (above the stores) of the Fitch Institute building is appropriated to this work. Here are the reception-room and office, house surgeon's room, operating-room, bathroom, a small kitchen, linen-room, two wards, each with a capacity for eight beds, and two private rooms. On the floor above are the rooms for nurses, the house surgeon, night orderly and other employees.

The business affairs of the hospital and the laying in of supplies are under the immediate charge of the supervising nurse, who has had five years' experience in the Buffalo General Hospital. She is aided by an assistant nurse in surgical training. The house surgeon has charge of the patients. In addition to the house surgeon and his assistant there are two medical students acting in turn. There are also a night orderly and one maid, with hired assistants when necessary. The janitor of the building is required to serve when called. The hospital is in connection with the city telephone system, and has both a two-horse and a one-horse ambulance subject to call. There are electric bells in the rooms of the various officers and in the ambulance stable, by means of which calls are made from the office. The officers and employees of the institution take their meals at a restaurant and the dietary of the patients is supplied from the same source. The laundrying is done outside. The bedsteads are of a special hospital pattern and have woven-wire mattresses. All the appliances of the hospital appear to be of the most modern and approved kind. A very complete ambulance bag and a bandage winder are in use. A similar bag, containing the requisites used in the first treatment of the injured, and a similar bandage winder were exhibited by the hospital at the World's Fair, for which articles an award was made.

The clothing of patients entering the hospital is laid aside and clean hospital clothing furnished them while they remain. At the time of my visit, December twenty-seventh, a patient had just died from the effects of injuries caused by the explosion of a gasoline stove; another, a sailor, had fallen down three flights of stairs and broken his skull.

Miss Royan stated that they had sometimes for a day as many as twelve patients at a time and sometimes as many as ten for six or seven weeks. In the business season the average would be about thirteen a day, including those having maimed fingers, simple fractures of the arm, etc., who would not require being put to bed. Patients received by order of railroad companies are retained until their discharge is ordered by the railroad company's physician; other patients are transferred to their homes or to other institutions when able to be removed.

The work of the hospital greatly increased during the nine months preceding October first, there having been 544 more cases reported than during the same period the preceding year. The total number of cases treated in the hospital during the nine months ending October 1, 1893, was 1,472. Of these, 352 were brought to the hospital by its ambulances. There were transferred to the general hospital, fifty-five; to other hospitals, fourteen; to residences, sixty-seven. There were discharged as recovered, 1,187, and as improved, twenty-five. The number that died was twenty-eight. The ambulances are brought into requisition for other than the hospital service, they having transported to other places during the period named 155 accident cases. The disbursements for the hospital during the nine months preceding October first were \$6,100.13.

Fitch Provident Dispensary of the Charity Organization Society.

(Room of the Fitch Institute, corner Swan and Michigan streets, Buffalo.)

This dispensary is under the direction of the same committee of the Charity Organization Society as is the Fitch Accident Hospital. George P. Sawyer is chairman of the committee. The

staff consists of Dr. DeWitt H. Sherman, physician-in-chief, and Dr. Albert T. Lytle, attending physician. Besides, there are two students from the department of pharmacy of the University of Buffalo in daily attendance.

The object of the dispensary is to dispense medical and surgical aid to the worthy poor who are unable to pay for it. A small payment is expected for medicines prescribed, but this is usually left discretionary with the applicant. The number of new patients treated from January 1 to October 1, 1893, was 396; the number of treatments given, 1,317; number of prescriptions dispensed, 652.

Flagler Hospital.

(Corner West Main street and Bristol avenue, Lockport.)

The Flagler Hospital was opened in 1889. The building occupied is a two-story frame structure, formerly a private residence, and was given to the city of Lockport, with the lot upon which it stands, by Thomas T. Flagler, for a "City Hospital." As there is no specific fund provided for the maintenance of the hospital its use at present is restricted to emergency cases. It is contemplated, however, to incorporate the work and extend its scope to general hospital purposes.

The hospital, which has a capacity of ten rooms, is supplied with city water, connected with the city sewerage system, lighted by kerosene and heated by stoves. It is supported by city funds and is under the immediate control of a hospital committee, consisting of Dr. L. W. Bristol and James R. Compten.

University Dental Infirmary.

(24 High street, Buffalo.)

Like the University Dispensary, the University Dental Infirmary is connected with the medical department of the University of Buffalo. It is directed by a board consisting of Drs. C. Barrett, A. P. Southwick and F. E. Howard. Dr. Barrett has charge of the medical and surgical departments; Dr. A. P. Southwick of

the operative department; and Dr. G. D. Snow of the mechanical department. All serve gratuitously. The dental department occupying five rooms in the university building, is open from 9.30 a. m till 4 o'clock p. m., daily, for treatment of all oral diseases. The service is entirely free, except when valuable material is used, which the patient is required to pay for. The daily average attendance of patients is about twenty-five. The expenses are met by the dental department of the university.

University Dispensary.

(24 High street, Buffalo.)

The University Dispensary is connected with the medical department of the University of Buffalo. The dispensary was opened for the treatment of the worthy poor in May, 1893. It is governed by a committee of the medical faculty of the university, consisting of Dr. Charles G. Stockton, chairman; Drs. M. D. Mann and Charles Cary. The dispensary staff, serving gratuitously, is made up as follows: General practice, Drs. Allen A. Jones, George Himmelsbach and DeWitt H. Sherman; surgery, Drs. Edward J. Meyer and J. Franklin Whitwell; diseases of women, Drs. M. A. Crockett and F. B. Willard; diseases of the nervous system, Drs. James W. Putnam and James A. Gibson; diseases of children, Drs. H. U. Williams and Irving M. Snow; diseases of the skin, Drs. Ernest Wende and Grover Wende; diseases of the nose and throat, Drs. Henry J. Mulford and George F. Cott; diseases of the eye and ear, Drs. Julius Pohlman, Elmer Starr and H. Y. Grant; diseases of the genito-urinary system, Drs. Wm. H. Bergtold and Wm. H. Heath.

The treatment is free to the worthy poor. The doors are open daily from 2 o'clock to 6 o'clock p. m. There is one room for each department, besides a large room for dispensing medicines and a waiting-room. The daily average number of patients treated is about forty. The expenses are borne by the medical department of the university.

The Women's Christian Association Hospital.

(Jamestown.)

This hospital is purely a charitable enterprise conducted by the Women's Christian Association of Jamestown. A subordinate board, of which Mrs. C. C. Burtch is president, is intrusted with the routine affairs of the institution, which is in the immediate charge of Miss Christina Hall, a graduate of the Toronto General Hospital, Canada. Miss Hall is assisted by five nurses, who are in training. The physicians of Jamestown give their services gratuitously to this good work. They change each quarter, and it is arranged so that one allopathic and one homoeopathic practitioner serve at the same time.

The hospital building is of brick, two stories high, and was formerly a large private residence. It occupies an elevated situation on a corner lot in a quiet neighborhood. Its capacity is for twenty-three patients, and it contained that number at one time last winter. The number of patients received during the year was 170. The building is supplied with city water. The sewers at present lead to cesspools, but it is hoped that connection ere long will be made with the city system, which is extending in this direction. Flush-closets are used within the building. The house is in connection with the telephone system. The need of a building for contagious and infectious diseases is felt, and plans have already been laid to erect one. There is also great need of a nurses' cottage, and it is proposed to erect one the coming year, using towards its construction a thousand dollars contributed by a former patient.

The hospital is supported entirely by voluntary contributions and the board fee of patients. Private patients having rooms are always expected to pay for their care. Ward patients also, if able to do so; if unable, they are not refused admittance. There are a good many patients who have been injured while employed on the railway, for whom five dollars a week is charged. County patients are charged for at the rate of four dollars a week.

When visited, July nineteenth, every department of the hospital appeared to be in order, and cleanliness was everywhere observed.

Since my visit to the hospital Mrs. Burtch has written me under date of November third: "I am glad to be able to inform you that our new cottage is under way, and we hope to occupy it this winter. It will cost about \$2,000. Our work has been, like all pioneer work, rather hard to start, but we make steady progress each year, which encourages us to go on, hoping to become an acknowledged necessity and to do a much larger work than we have yet done. We feel that our present success has been largely due to our efficient superintendent, Miss Hall."

Conclusion.

It does not come within the scope of this report to cover the entire field of organized charitable, saving and reform work carried on in the eighth judicial district. There are a large number of societies and organizations, some of them incorporated and some not incorporated, which sustain one or more branches of benevolent work in connection with other work having a different primary aim. Among these may be mentioned the Women's Christian Association, of Buffalo, which maintains an employment bureau, and provides in its spacious and commodious edifice on Niagara square a temporary refuge for women who are strangers and in distress; the Catholic Home on Franklin street, Buffalo, having a like object; the Christian Endeavor societies; the societies of St. Vincent de Paul; the religious sisterhoods of the Roman Catholic Church; the circles of King's Daughters; and various kinds of philanthropic and benevolent societies.

In looking backward, at the conclusion of this task, which, though laborious, has been a pleasant one, and reviewing the work accomplished in this judicial district during the past twenty years, we see here, as in many other parts of the State, that great advances have been made and many desirable reforms effected. The dependent children have been removed from the poorhouses and provided for in families, orphan asylums, and other appro-

priate institutions, and legislation has been secured forbidding the admission of those over 2 years of age into the poorhouses. The insane, formerly in the county-houses, have been, likewise, removed and brought under State care. Special provision has been made for feeble-minded women, and the provision for the blind, deaf and dumb, and idiotic children has been extended so as to meet the needs of these classes. Hospital provision has been made for sick and crippled children, general hospitals have been enlarged and multiplied, emergency hospitals with every modern appliance for rendering immediate aid to accident and emergency cases have been established, and, through the advances made in medical science, wonderful cures are effected. Through organization, protection is now extended to children maltreated or neglected by parents or guardians, improved methods have been adopted for elevating neglected children and for reforming wayward and delinquent children, and separate reformatory treatment provided for offending women, formerly lodged in penitentiaries and jails. In the condition of nearly all the charitable institutions in the eighth judicial district great improvements have been made. The buildings are, in many respects, better adapted to their purposes, and their sanitary arrangements are more complete. In many places new structures have taken the place of old ones and facilities created for better classifying the inmates and for more convenient and economical administration. Through charity organization, the administration of public relief has been more efficiently directed, the public burden lessened, society improved, and the people have been taught the fallacy of promiscuous giving and heedlessly aiding the worthless and undeserving.

The steady influx of foreign immigrants that has continued through many years has caused a large increase of mixed populations in our towns and cities, including many helpless and often unworthy dependents, and has created a necessity for vigorous and watchful effort to bring the discordant element in this increased population into harmony with our American system. The long-continued strain has been severe upon charity, reform and missionary workers, but their humane efforts have distingo-

tively marked the generation in which they live. To meet the issues of the times, men and women of all religions are engaged in educational and reform work. The public conscience is awakened, and the benevolent, as never before, are aiding in every movement to relieve human suffering and elevate humanity. Not only has it been necessary to assimilate the incongruous elements of a mixed foreign population with our civilization and to counteract the ever upspringing influences of social deterioration in our midst, but the recent depression in business and the widespread distress among the worthy and industrious unemployed now call for still larger sacrifices and still greater effort, which will require patience, fortitude and perseverance, and the exercise of a broad spirit of benevolence to meet. We will hope that the experience we are now passing through may make us wiser, stronger and better able to cope hereafter with the difficult problems of social and political economy.

Respectfully submitted.

WM. PRYOR LETCHWORTH,

Commissioner.

Dated Albany, *December* 30, 1893.